Reviewer's report

Title: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder: development of consensus referral criteria for specialist diagnostic assessment in Australia

Version: 1 Date: 19 April 2014

Reviewer: Ju Lee Oei

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions: None

Minor revisions:

Comments

The question posed by the authors is well defined, very timely and the paper is very well written.

Australia is now acknowledging the difficulties posed by front line practitioners in identifying FAS early and accurately enough.

Some minor questions for the authors:

1. How were respondents contacted prior to the questionnaire being sent? If they had agreed initially to answering the questionnaire, it is disappointing that only 75% of them responded.

2. How were the international respondents chosen as this was a paper designed to test Australian opinions?

3. This paper assesses "expert opinion". Alcohol is very much ingrained into Australian culture. Would a survey of coal-face workers, i.e. people who do not have recognised expertise in FAS be appropriate as children can usually only get referred to "experts" if people on the ground recognise the problem in the first place.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.