Reviewer's report

Title: Perceived barriers and facilitators to mental health help-seeking in young people: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 4 November 2010

Reviewer: Peter Verhaak

Reviewer's report:

A well documented systematic review on a relevant and important topic. I've got no major compulsory revisions (although I was very surprised that UK, Scandinavia, Germany or the Netherlands did not or hardly contribute. But the procedures followed appear profound enough to me).

Minor essential revisions:

Discussion, first paragraph: "a focus onf qualitative rather than qualitative data collection". Please change one "qualitative" in a "quantitative".

Discretionary revisions

I can understand that review studies were excluded (because of the duplication in studies, it may cause), but I can imagine that discussions from earlier reviews might provide input for the background section. This literature might suggest already the relevant themes concerning barriers and facilitators, on which this review might continue.

The background could possibly summarize literature on barriers and facilitators for help seeking for psychological problems in the general population.

Maybe an extra table might be included to provide an overview of the sample and participant characteristics.

In the discussion section under the heading "knowledge about mental health services" I had expected some attention for the very broadly spread opinion that "help by mental health care providers does not work"

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests