Reviewer’s report

Title: 'I am not a depressed person': How identity conflict affects help-seeking rates for Major Depressive Disorder

Version: 1 Date: 30 July 2012

Reviewer: Amelia Gulliver

Reviewer’s report:

Overall, this paper is clearly written and makes a contribution to the help-seeking field by providing qualitative description of the process leading up to help-seeking behaviour in individuals experiencing depression.

Discretionary revisions

1. For consistency, insert spaces around equals sign e.g., (n = 7) (Results, paragraph 2).

2. It may be of use to make a clearer connection between the names of the themes as described in Table 1, and as described in the Results section (i.e., Theme 2 is described in Table 1 as “AVOIDANCE”, then labeled as “Theme 2 – Prioritising identity and goals” in the results section).


Minor Essential Revisions

1. Recruitment methods are described as “including” a number of different methods - Is the methodology for recruitment fully described? (Methods, paragraph 1).

2. Interview schedule: Please describe the changes made to the interview questions (Methods, paragraph 6). It may be of use to include a full list of questions as an additional file.

3. Table 2 does not give an indication of how widespread the views were about these barriers. Were any of the barriers more prominent or disputed than others?

4. A clearer case needs to be made for the statement that the results suggest “that all three barriers (structural, knowledge and attitudinal) may be helpful targets for intervention” (Discussion, paragraph 2).

5. Please acknowledge in the limitations section that the iterative change in interview schedule may have influenced the results. In addition, acknowledge that the majority of participants were female, which may affect generalisability
(Limitations section).

**Level of interest:** An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

**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.