Reviewer’s report

Title: Traumatic events, other operational stressors and physical and mental health reported by Australian Defence Force personnel following peace-keeping and war-like deployments

Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2012

Reviewer: Margaret Jones

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have responded satisfactorily to all the points raised in the original review.

I have one Minor essential revision:

Results section 5th paragraph reads: “Among Bougainville veterans there was no significant association between the level of subjective or objective traumatic exposures and reporting high psychological distress (K10#30) or PTSD (PCL-C#50) (Table 5).”

This statement is true for K10 but not altogether so for PCL. Although the test for trend is not significant, so there is not a consistent “dose response” effect with increasing exposure, nevertheless PCL ‘caseness’ is significantly associated with reporting 1 or 4+ subjective stressors. If the comparison made was between no subjective stressor and one or more stressor there might well be a significant association between one or more subjective stressor and PTSD. Please modify the statement.

Discretionary revisions

Suggest careful proof reading as several ‘typos’ have crept in e.g.

p6 “Those who have experienced more traumatic exposures may have worse psychological health because repeated exposures may have ‘sensitized’ them a reaction to a trauma related cue……”

p15 “In those who deployed to East Timor 7.2% scored had symptoms of PTSD (PCL-C #50)…”

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'