Reviewer’s report

Title: The Association Between Social Relationships and Self-Harm: A Case-control Study in Taiwan

Version: 3 Date: 13 March 2013

Reviewer: Sarah Knowles

Reviewer’s report:

I believe the authors have largely answered the questions raised in my previous review, adding methodological detail where needed, more explicitly outlining the conceptual role of social support, and the discussion appears more balanced with reference to how social support may be a pathway to harm and acknowledging limitations of the design. I would like to see a more explicit theoretical conclusion in the discussion, for example stating how these findings can be interpreted in terms of the Berkman model or how they compare/add to the Cry of Pain model but this is at the author’s discretion.

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.