Reviewer's report

Title: Promoting recovery-oriented practice in mental health services: a quasi-experimental mixed-methods study

Version: 1 Date: 21 April 2013

Reviewer: Brenda Happell

Reviewer's report:

Thanks for the opportunity to review this manuscript. Recovery has certainly become the language of the day. However, much is required before it becomes truly embedded in practice.

The paper is clear and easy to read, more information is needed about the involvement of people with lived experience. I see they were involved in the training. Given recovery was developed by the consumer movement their involvement needs to be far greater.

I did feel the authors were trying to do too much here and have suggested they consider two papers. I realise this is often considered salami slicing but I feel the participant voice does not come through as strongly as it could. Besides i've not yet met anyone who wants to swallow a salami whole :).

Major Essential Revisions

1. Acknowledgement that recovery was developed by the consumer movement. Without this there is a real and immediate danger that history will be rewritten and Recovery becomes an approached developed by health providers.

2. The extent or otherwise of service user involvement in the development and delivery of the training and this research project must be explicitly stated. Are any of the authors service users?

3. The methodology section should start with an overview of the design

4. Revisions to the discussion. In many places there is a lengthy summary of the findings and insufficient integration with the literature.

Discretionary changes:

1. rewrite as two papers one dealing with the quantitative and one with the qualitative components, enabling more of the participants' voice to come through in the qualitative paper.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.