Reviewer’s report

Title: Delayed sleep onset in depressed young people

Version: Date: 17 December 2013

Reviewer: Timo Partonen

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Methods, Sample, page 6, line 3. It reads "adult phenotype chronic psychiatric disorder". What do you mean by this? It is not commonly used terminology. Please explain. In addition, does "chronic" refer to incomplete remission or persistent reoccurrence? Please clarify.

Methods, Sample, Inclusion criteria b, page 6. Sleep onset between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. indicated not having "highly disrupted patterns of sleep onset" in individuals aged 12 to 25 years. I do not agree with this definition. Could you please back up your claim by giving references (other than #7 or #10-#12) here. Please reconsider, and this may mean that you need to calculate new analyses.

Methods, Sample, Exclusion criteria c, page 6. Readers may not know what is meant by "persistent reoccurrence - stage 3". Please explain here.

Methods, Analysis. The exploratory nature of the study is not an excuse for not calculating the correction for multiple testing. There are many appropriate methods to calculate the adjusted P-values. Please calculate, so that the readers can judge the statistical (and clinical) significance of your results.

Authors Contributions, page 18. It appears that one of the authors named on the title page has no author contribution. Please explain.

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods, Sample, page 5. Please give more details, what are these headspace clinics. Who owns them? Are they private or public? What is their catchment area? Are patients admitted with a referral or also without a referral? I ask this, as on the basis of this information the readers can judge, whether the sample was a selected one and due to it to which extent the sample was biased. Please clarify.

Assessment, Sleep, page 7. The paragraph starts with "Other ...". To which this "other" refers to? Why did not you just start with "Sleep characteristics ..."? Please clarify and correct as appropriate.

Assessment, Demographics and psychosocial risks, page 8. There were individuals not participating in any type of educational study. Were there such individuals among those aged 12 to 15 (or 16) years? If yes, please explain how is it possible. I ask this, because certainly there is the school age in Australia, or is not there?
Discretionary Revisions

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

**Declaration of competing interests:**
I declare that I have no competing interests.