Author’s response to reviews

Title: Attitudes of clinical staff towards the causes and management of aggression in acute old age psychiatry inpatient units

Authors:

Terence V McCann (terence.mccann@vu.edu.au)
John Baird (John.Baird@wh.org.au)
Eimear Muir-Cochrane (eimear.muircochrane@flinders.edu.au)

Version: 2 Date: 25 January 2013

Author’s response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor/Reviewers,

Below is point-by-point description of the changes made.

**Background section**
- Revised the ‘background’ section, incorporated more focused literature, and included a new section on the ‘causes’ of aggression.
- Provided summary information about staff as recipients of aggression in old age psychiatry.
- Included recent work of Pulsford et al. and Duxbury et al. about older people and aggression in residential homes.
- Even though there is no national data on the use of restraint and seclusion in Australia, we have provided additional information on the use of these containment measures in Australia, including reference to the recommendation of the recent National Mental Health Commission [28] that recommended reduction and potential elimination of restraint and seclusion. In addition, we have indicated that high use of these containment measures is often an early sign of a system under stress.

**Methods section**
- Adjusted the inclusion and exclusion criterion to make all of this clearer to readers.

**Discussion section**
- Modified the ‘discussion’ section and made a stronger link with newly included literature, particularly that relating to aged psychiatry, about the causes of aggression.
- As suggested, the frustration-aggression hypothesis is no longer as prominent in the ‘discussion’ section.

**Conclusion section**
- Reviewed the ‘conclusion’ section to ensure a stronger link between the findings of the study and the conclusions.

**Writing style/grammar**
- We have revised the manuscript and corrected the few grammatical errors.
- We have decided to use the term ‘old age psychiatry’ because it is commonly used in the international literature and is, therefore, more suited to an international journal such as BMC Psychiatry.