Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Mental health first aid training for the public: evaluation of effects on knowledge, attitudes and helping behavior

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**Version:** 1  **Date:** 16 Aug 2002

**Reviewer:** Prof Beverley Raphael

**Level of interest:** A paper of considerable general medical or scientific interest

**Advice on publication:** Accept after discretionary revisions

This paper is a useful evaluation of an interesting program to help improve understanding and response to people with a mental illness. The evaluation is positive and shows improved knowledge. However the population is of middle class women and may not indicate generalisation. The scientific standards are of good quality as is the writing of the report. It is not clear however if the intervention helped to increase referral or access to mental health care. It would be useful if the authors commented on these matters.

1. Authors should comment further on generalisability of findings and relation to access to care

**Competing interests:**

None declared.