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: 24 Sep 2002

Reviewer: Dr Victor Kiri

Level of interest: A paper whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Advice on publication: Accept after discretionary revisions

I am satisfied with the statistical methods used to analyse the data and most of the conclusions made. However, it is important to highlight as critical, the authors’ concessions that (a) it is possible that repeated testing alone could have given rise to the reported changes, and (b) that there might have been reporting bias towards improvements to please the researchers. The authors should acknowledge this problem in the "Statistical analysis" section when describing the choice of analytical (testing) techniques and not just in "discussions". Statistical methods are as much about applicability as they are about handling bias- the later is critical for the former to make sense.

Competing interests:

I am an employee of a pharmaceutical company, although I am unable to see the potential for conflict of interest here.