Reviewer’s report

Title: Stigma in response to mental disorders: a comparison of Australia and Japan

Version: 1 Date: 23 February 2006

Reviewer: Paul S Appelbaum

Reviewer’s report:

General
This is a good large-scale study of public attitudes toward mental illness in Japan and Australia. Although two other papers based on these data have previously been published, these analyses seem sufficiently different (in being focused on the question of stigma) to warrant independent publication. The authors appear to have acknowledged the major limitations of their data, including not having a true epidemiological sample in Japan and the large number of potential subjects who were not entered into the study in Australia.

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)
Given that two previous papers have been published from these data, I would suggest that the authors would be wise to note those publications here (they are cited, but not described in the current manuscript), and to distinguish them from this analysis.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

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What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

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