Reviewer's report

Title: The population approach to falls injury prevention in older people: Findings of a two community trial

Version: 1 Date: 17 September 2009

Reviewer: Gert Jan Wijlhuizen

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting manuscript and I do agree on the falls prevention approach that is advocated in the discussion section. Nevertheless, I have some remarks related to the study which I address in the following section.

- Major Compulsory Revisions
1 Please explain why you adjusted for self perceived general health in the analysis (table 2). The intervention might have influenced (improved) general health and this might result in fewer falls. Adjusting for self perceived general health might mask possible reductions in falls due to improved perceived health.
2 Please explain why you choose the priority strategies of increasing physical activity and ‘awareness’. In a recent thesis (Wijlhuizen, 2008; https://openaccess.leidenuniv.nl) increasing physical activity is regarded as increasing exposure to danger (loosing balance), and therefore not immediately leading to reduced falls.
3 Please explain why you took the population incidence of falls as an outcome measure and not the number of falls per unit of physical activity. I suggest the latter because an important factor related to falling is the exposure to danger (indicated by the level of physical activity) and the fact that there are large exposure differences between older persons. Actually older persons tend to change their exposure due to perceived falls risk (fear of falling).

- Minor Essential Revisions
None

- Discretionary Revisions
None

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'