Reviewer's report

**Title:** Health-related productivity losses increase when the health condition is co-morbid with psychological distress: findings from a large cross-sectional sample of working Australians.

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 24 February 2011

**Reviewer:** James Hill

**Reviewer's report:**

Major - The authors have thoughtfully address the deficiencies in the manuscript. No major revisions.

Minor

Abstract - Conclusion: Should read: "These findings highlight the need for further research to determine whether "co-morbid" psychological distress"

Background/Methods - I am unsure if this is a track changes problem but the style of writing in the Backgroud and methods is different from the discussion/conclusion. Difficult to read. Also I would prefer to see you get rid of the paragraph starting with "as psychological distress is.." It seems out of place and you have already presented similar material in the discussion section. While I appreciate the link between depression and psychological distress, you are not studying depression in this paper and it misleads the reader. Your data on PD and comorbidities is interesting and should be the focus. Keep depression and PD in the discussion-you don't need it anywhere else - the PD measure stands alone.

Methods: On re-read, can a person with more than one co-morbidity be included in each sample? I would assume by your modeling that they can, I would like this stated in the methods.

Table 2. workplace injury IRR should not read 2.66*8

Table 5: Table formatting should be consistent with other tables.

Overall: Final review for grammar, punctuation, spelling - hard to evaluate in the track changes form, use same writing style for entire manuscript.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

'I declare that I have no competing interests'