Reviewer’s report

Title: Alcohol consumption in higher education students

Version: 1 Date: 27 February 2011

Reviewer: Deniz Karagülle

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions

1) The title of the article is “Alcohol consumption in higher education students”. In the part “Methods – Participants” you differ between vocational (VE) and higher education (HE) courses. Are only students, which visit higher education courses, included to the study? Or does the term “higher education students” include VE and HE? Should the title sound e.g. Alcohol consumption in vocational and higher education students?

2) In connection with 1): Is it possible to categorize the participants between students, which visit vocational courses and higher education courses. If you included students from both education groups, is there a significant difference in alcohol consumption behaviour?

3) Results – Alcohol consumption and knowledge of NHMRC guidelines:
What is the definition for heavy alcohol consumption? Is it 6 drinks or more in one session at least monthly? Why 6 drinks or more? For example binge drinking is usually defined with 5 drinks and more in one session, for female in many researches even 4 drinks or more in one session.

4) Results – Alcohol consumption and knowledge of NHMRC guidelines:
Did you find a difference between male and female with respect to heavy drinking behaviour?

Minor issues not for publication

1) Interview content, first paragraph: The full stop after citation delimiter "[14]."

2) Table 3 - cutline: you mean: “bsignificantly higher in male staff” (instead of students).

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.