Reviewer's report

Title: With good intentions: complexity in unsolicited informal support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. A qualitative study.

Version: 1 Date: 22 May 2011

Reviewer: Jennifer Reath

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting and useful report of a study that aimed to explore how "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with chronic illness experience informal unsolicited support".

The authors purposively recruited 19 participants including 16 patients and 3 carers. Semistructured interviews were conducted until saturation of themes occurred. The data were analysed using qualitative content and thematic analysis assisted by NVivo8.

The results of the study are presented in a style that reflects the methodology used in the study. Broad headings define themes that are illustrated by lengthy quotations, which are then analysed for deeper meaning. Thus whilst the data presented at times seem scant and randomly selected, the themes explored and the meanings assigned to the participant comments appear to me (as a General Practitioner with two decades experience working in these same communities), to have good face validity.

Major Compulsory Revisions
nil

Minor Essential Revisions
1. Ensure consistency in inverted commas for “yarn” and explanation of this term prior to ongoing usage or consideration of an alternative term (e.g. in the abstract) as it is not a term recognised internationally.
2. Careful editing to rephrase occasional clumsy or ungrammatical constructs e.g. “the tension that inheres in it can be counterproductive” “constant reminders about exercise, what not to eat, what to do, et cetera runs the risk” “people to ‘feel normal’, and be something other than just a diagnosis”
3. Note under methodology whether or not the interviewers were themselves Aboriginal or what experience they have had of working in this area.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.