Reviewer's report

Title: Short-term Sick Leave and Future Risk of Sickness Absence and Unemployment - the Impact of Health Status

Version: 4 Date: 14 September 2012

Reviewer: Justin Scanlan

Reviewer's report:

I have reviewed the manuscript and feel it is now suitable for publication. I have included below 2 Minor Essential Revisions.

1. MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION
   Results, third paragraph:
   The sentence: “Table 3 shows statistically significant higher crude odds ratios for long-term sick leave and short-term unemployment among those exposed to STSL.” is not correct. There is no increased odds ratio for short-term unemployment for the low STSL group. A suggested change is included below:

   "Table 3 shows statistically significant higher crude odds ratios for long-term sick leave and short-term unemployment among those exposed to high STSL and a significant higher odds ratio for long-term sick leave for those exposed to low STSL. No increased odds ratios were found for short-term unemployment for those individuals exposed to low STSL. No increased odds ratios were found for long-term unemployment and disability pension."

2. MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISION
   The word “Competing” is incorrectly spelt in the manuscript section “Competing interests” (currently “Compeating”).

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