Reviewer’s report

Title: The Structure of Psychological Life Satisfaction: Insights from farmers and a general community sample in Australia

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2012

Reviewer: Gareth Davey

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this interesting study. The main thrust of the article is to introduce a novel way of examining life satisfaction through an investigation of domain satisfaction among the Australian general population and also drought-affected farmers.

My overall impression of the strengths and limitations of the article is that while it is interesting and has some importance, its potential contribution to BMC Public Health is limited.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The linkage between the findings of the study and health promotion and policy are weak. Therefore, the study’s the relevance to BMC Public Health is limited.

2. Concepts and terms investigated in the study--such as psychological life satisfaction and wellbeing--are unclear and not consistent with the literature. The authors could define and explain more clearly the way they interpret the constructs.

3. The literature review is incomplete. There are important articles that should be included, e.g. research from the International Wellbeing Group. The predecessor of the PWI (Comprehensive Quality of Life Scale; ComQol) could also be discussed.

The paper also has a number of strengths. The QOL data, especially with the sample of farmers, is interesting. The authors could consider rewriting their report and then submitting it to another journal about social indicators or happiness studies.

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