Reviewer's report

Title: Work ability assessment in a worker population: Comparison and determinants of Work Ability Index and Work Ability score

Version: 3 Date: 9 January 2013

Reviewer: Marin Been

Reviewer's report:

I was very pleased to read the revised article; the authors have extensively restructured the article and have addressed most points of the reviewers adequately. I am looking forward to seeing this article published after the authors address the following minor points:

Minor Essential Revisions:

1. Research question 2 in my opinion, is still too general. I think the paper would benefit from a more specific defined second research question. Instead of just exploring determinants that are expected to be associated with a poor WAI score (which are already extensively described in the literature), I would propose that the research question would be posed more explicit. The authors should describe exactly which variables they expect to associate with a poor WAI score and why. I already addressed this point in my previous review, and presume that my point might have been misunderstood, as the question I posed was used as the new definition of research question 2, instead of the requested more specific formulation.

2. In the section statistical analyses, my suggestion would be to relocate the part about the comparison between respondents and non-respondents to the beginning of the sections, and then discuss the further analyses according to the research questions, indicated by the numbering as used in the introduction. These numbers could also be used in the results and discussion sections. Please make sure that the wording and numbering of the research questions is consistent throughout the manuscript.

3. The discussion would in my opinion benefit from a short section describing the practical recommendations that follow from the current study, especially with regard to research question 2.

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.