Reviewer’s report

Title: The Role of Action Planning and Plan Enactment for Smoking Cessation

Version: 3 Date: 22 March 2013

Reviewer: James Balmford

Reviewer’s report:

The paper is greatly improved, thank you to the authors for making the changes I requested so comprehensively.

I do still however think that there is one key point the authors did not understand, but I will leave it to their and to the editors’ discretion whether or not to make further changes to the manuscript. I do think the paper would be stronger if this point was properly addressed.

In my previous review I was not suggesting that the authors only include smokers who engaged in a quit attempt. This would of course lead to the bias the authors described in their response. Rather, I requested that analyses where the outcome is making a quit attempt, the entire sample should be used, but in analyses where the outcome is abstinence, only those who engaged in a quit attempt should be included. This is important because several studies have now shown that predictors of making a quit attempt differ from those of abstinence, thus the quitting process is not linear, and the making of a quit attempt is an important discontinuity point.

It is not valid to include participants who did not make a quit attempt in analyses predicting abstinence, as making a quit attempt is a necessary precondition for abstinence to occur. The erroneous inclusion of such participants is likely to have had the effect of weakening the relationship between planning tasks and abstinence outcome.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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