Author's response to reviews

Title: The quantity, nature and quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian mentoring literature: A systematic review

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Dear Editor

Please find attached our manuscript “The quantity, nature, quality and characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian mentoring literature: A systematic review” for submission to BMC Public Health. As requested, we have merged the manuscript with MS 142436803108319 which you closed. The systematic review that provides the data for this paper was conducted in response to calls from State Government departments to guide the direction of their implementation plans for their Learning Earning Active Places Strategy (LEAP). The LEAP initiative delineates the longer-term intentions of government to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders to improve their access to education, employment, health and housing opportunities in urban and regional areas. Rather than starting from scratch to continually develop and implement new local solutions to community issues, they elected to work with university researchers to understand what was already working for Aboriginal and Torres Islander people in this area. Although there has been substantial international theorising of mentoring processes, in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian context, these were piecemeal. This review has gone some way to linking the characteristics of mentoring as a strategy for addressing the social determinants of health through social inclusion, engagement and empowerment. It systematically searched the limited extant literature to determine the quantity, nature, quality and characteristics of mentoring work. The latter identified the initiating and facilitating environments, strategies and outcomes. We believe that the review provides a significant contribution to the public health literature and is worthy of publication in BMC Public Health.

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

We appreciate your consideration of this manuscript.

Yours sincerely

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