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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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

We thank the reviewers for their suggestions to improving the quality of our manuscript “The quantity, nature, quality and characteristics of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australian mentoring literature: A systematic review”. Our best efforts were made to reconcile the reviewers’ comments and incorporate them into the manuscript. Please find below a list of the revisions made in accordance with the reviewers’ major, minor and discretionary comments:

- Line numbering was inserted;
- The review is presented in accord with PRISMA guidelines;
- A completed PRISMA checklist was included as an additional file;
- Incorporated some of the context in the cover letter into the introduction;
- Methods section made more concise and less repetitive;
- In-text reviewers’ suggestions for changes made: For example, the sentence “the findings show that Indigenous Australian mentoring has an emergent lifespan of 14 years” changed to “the findings show that Indigenous Australian mentoring literature has an emergent lifespan of 14 years” [line 483];
- Limitations section repositioned to follow the discussion;
- Figure 4 has been shifted from the discussion to the results section; and serves as a succinct summary of the findings;
- An appeal for strong evaluation strategies was made more prominent in the conclusion.
- The primary and secondary outcomes of the review are clearly stated;
- Reviewer comment: A definition of mentoring for the purposes of this paper would have been useful. There is already a clear definition and discussion of the definition of mentoring in the manuscript – this is noted by other reviewers; this remains unchanged;
- Information has been included as to the type of mentoring information sought;
- All tables have been included within the main body of the paper as suggested;
- Information on what is known about mentoring programs for the non-Aboriginal community have been included as part of the discussion in terms of the components (strategies and outcomes) that are the same and different; and
- Inclusion of key messages for anyone trying to establish a mentoring program within an Aboriginal community has been included in the conclusion.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issues raised by the reviewers. We anticipate that the revisions will meet your approval.

With regards

Roxanne Bainbridge