Reviewer’s report

**Title:** The Context of Violent Disagreements between Parents: A Qualitative Analysis from Parents’ Reports

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 25 June 2014

**Reviewer:** Puja Myles

**Reviewer’s report:**

This is a well written and interesting paper on an important topic.

**Major compulsory revisions:**

1. A bit more detail about the sampling approach is required. Was a purposive sampling approach used and if yes, explain how this was implemented. At present it appears that a convenience sample approach based on consenting couples was used; while this is not desirable in a qualitative study, given the difficult and sensitive topic being explored, it can be defended but needs to be made clear in the methods and discussed as a limitation in the discussion section.

2. Some of the statements made in the discussion particularly relating to the impact of IPV on children (Page 15) seem to be unsupported by the results that have been presented in the paper. It would be worth adding to the results to support these statements better. It is also worth differentiating between parental perceptions of negative impacts on children and actual negative impacts on children unless objective evidence relating to events demonstrating this can be provided.

"Children's involvement in violent disagreements increased as violence escalated."

"As the couple's conflict becomes more aggressive, children's concern for safety increases, leading them to experience negative emotional reactivity and to engage in attempts to regulate exposure (e.g. through directly intervening). This increased involvement places children at risk for traumatic reactions and for being physically injured."

**Minor essential revisions**

1. There is a typo on page 12 (delete extra 'were'): " When participants discussed their violent disagreements, they described that their children were often were present..."

**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.