Reviewer's report

**Title:** PRISM (Program of Resources Information and Support for Mothers): a community randomised trial to reduce depression and improve women's physical health six months after birth [ISRCTNO3464021]

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 22 November 2005

**Reviewer:** Christine MacArthur

**Reviewer's report:**

This paper is an excellent report of a very important study in the area of maternity care. I would have expected it to appear in a medical journal such as the BMJ or Lancet. It describes a complex and well conducted randomised cluster trial evaluating an intervention programme comprising health service professionals and community based activities aimed at improving women’s health in the 6 months after birth.

The paper describes the problem area succinctly and clearly, drawing on the major references in the field and indicating the reasons for the study. The methods show the study was well designed and conducted and the analysis which is necessarily complex given the cluster design, was appropriate. The results, both the text and the tables, are presented clearly and the authors discuss all relevant issues. This is a scientifically robust study set in the context of a cluster community-based intervention and the negative results, which are disappointing, merit widespread dissemination. I would recommend publication without revision.

**What next?:** Accept without revision

**Level of interest:** An exceptional article

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.