Author's response to reviews

Title: Exercise training for asbestos-related and other dust-related respiratory diseases: a randomised controlled trial

Authors:

Marita T Dale Ms (maritad@uni.sydney.edu.au)
Zoe J McKeough Dr (zoe.mckeough@sydney.edu.au)
Phillip A Munoz Mr (phillip.munoz@sswhs.nsw.gov.au)
Peter Corte Dr (peterc@mail.med.usyd.edu.au)
Peter TP Bye Prof (peter.by@sydney.edu.au)
Jennifer A Alison Prof (jennifer.alison@sydney.edu.au)

Version: 4 Date: 6 October 2014

Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear BioMed Central Editorial Team,

Re: Manuscript 1297546485134183
Exercise training for asbestos-related and other dust-related respiratory diseases: a randomised controlled trial
Marita T Dale, Zoe J McKeough, Phillip A Munoz, Peter Corte, Peter TP Bye and Jennifer A Alison

Thank you for providing us with the reviewers’ comments on the above manuscript and the opportunity to respond to the minor issue identified by Reviewer 2.

We have addressed the issue below and made the corresponding change in the revised manuscript.

Reviewer 2 (Anne Holland):

_in their response the authors have provided a good justification for recruiting more participants than required by the sample size calculation but did not add this to the manuscript. Given this discrepancy in numbers is a bit confusing for the reader it would have been nice to add it, but not essential._

We have now addressed this in the Discussion (lines 423-6):

“The original sample size calculation was based on outcomes of exercise training in people with ILD. As the study progressed, two distinct participant groups became evident, participants with dust-related pleural disease and participants with interstitial respiratory diseases. To account for this heterogeneity, more participants were recruited than originally calculated.”

Kind regards,
Marita Dale