Reviewer's report

Title: A systematic review of musculoskeletal disorders in the teaching profession

Version: 1 Date: 25 September 2011

Reviewer: Peter Leggat

Reviewer's report:

This is a nice review of MSD in the teaching profession. It reads well.

Major compulsory revisions

Nil.

Minor Essential Revisions

Scope/objectives of review should exclude academics (university academic staff), if only because there is just one paper of academic MSD cited.

The review should be limited to School teachers, in the broadest sense, which is the basis of the overwhelming majority of the literature cited (preschool, primary, secondary, special, music and physical education school teachers). Perhaps those who teach in a school environment might be considered to be part of the literature scoping and the title of the paper could then more appropriately reflect school teachers.

Abstract: the conclusions are weak. Rather than just say more research is needed, perhaps some more of the key issues raised in the main text conclusions can be included, i.e. possible wider use of ergonomic principles etc.

Discretionary Revisions

Some initial impact statements concerning the prevalence of MSD may be useful in the introduction. Perhaps reference a major standard textbook or two around this subject.

The limitations of the review have not been discussed. For example, only literature in English was scanned, etc.

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.