Author's response to reviews

Title: The experience of palliative patients and their families of a family meeting utilised as an instrument for spiritual and psychosocial care: A qualitative study

Authors:

Heather M Tan (Heather.Tan@monash.edu)
Anne Wilson (anne.wilson@adelaide.edu.au)
Ian Olver (ian.olver@cancer.org.au)
Christopher Barton (christopher.barton@adelaide.edu.au)

Version: 5 Date: 2 March 2011

Author's response to reviews: see over
The experience of palliative patients and their families of a family meeting utilised as an instrument for spiritual and psychosocial care: A qualitative study

Heather M Tan¹, Anne Wilson², Ian Olver³, Christopher Barton⁴

MS: 1758910578423431

Reviewer's report
Title: The experience of palliative patients and their families of a family meeting utilised as an instrument for spiritual and psychosocial care: A qualitative study
Version: 4 Date: 3 February 2011
Reviewer: Peter Strang
Reviewer's report:
After the major revisions that the authors have made, based on the different referees' suggestions, I think that the manuscript is highly improved now and I have no further suggestions for improvement.
Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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

This reviewer requires no further response

Reviewer's report
Title: The experience of palliative patients and their families of a family meeting utilised as an instrument for spiritual and psychosocial care: A qualitative study
Version: 4 Date: 28 February 2011
Reviewer: Linda Emanuel
Reviewer's report:
I think the authors have thoughtfully responded to Dr. Higginson's comments. It would have been nice to, and I think the authors should still, provide rather more in the way of references about the definition of spirituality. There are a few typographical errors in the text

Typographical errors have been corrected
The three paragraphs which discuss the definition of spirituality in fact do already include 13 references. However one more has been added (reference 10). See line line 2 of the section headed “Defining Spirituality” on page 3. This reference supports the acknowledgment that although the differentiation of religion and spirituality is widely made not all experts consider this best practice. This reference was suggested by Irene Higginson who was one of the original reviewers. It has been added to the reference list and the numbering of the references has been appropriately adjusted both in the list and the text. The focus of the second reference suggested my Prof Higginson has already been covered by other references (17,19,20). We believe that in the context of this article the matter of the definition of spirituality has been well referenced.

Thank you for your continuing consideration of this paper

Heather Tan