Reviewer's report

Title: Evaluation of the Living with Hope Program for Rural Women Caregivers of Persons with Advanced Cancer

Version: 1 Date: 5 February 2013

Reviewer: Susan E McClement

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript. I offer the following specific evaluative comments.

1) This manuscript is extremely well written. It flows logically, and the writing is clear and scholarly. I note on page 14 there is a sentence that appears to be incomplete. The sentence reads, As [40] persons with advanced cancer.

2) The stated aims of the project are clear and the statement of the problem provides justification for the proposed work. The aims of the study are clearly articulated.

3) A particular strength of this study are the theoretical frameworks that inform and direct the work. They are briefly but clearly described and their goodness of fit for the project and the selected outcome measures is evident.

4) The instrumentation for the study is well described, and the psychometrics are sound.

5) The data analysis plan is well described, and the rationale for using a mixed methods approach is appropriate.

6) The limitations of the study are accurately articulated. The challenges of recruitment for the population of interest are appropriately noted.

7) Given the paucity of psychosocial interventions for family caregivers that currently exist, the findings of this study, and its implications are highly significant to those supporting family caregivers of cancer patients.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.