Author's response to reviews

Title: Measuring changes in self-concept: a qualitative evaluation of outcome questionnaires in people having acupuncture for their chronic health problems.

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Responses to reviewers comments on resubmission, 23.1.06

Stewart Mercer.
I have included the suggested reference to, and description of, Stewart's paper. I have added this in the discussion section on page 16, and also briefly discussed the relevance of his work to mine (as they are very complementary). I have not added it to the earlier section on choosing the questionnaires as it was not published at the time of my literature review and the validation study, but I have qualified my statement on page 10 to read 'At the time of this study there were no published studies that used PEI to measure change over a period of weeks and months'.

Hugh McPherson
I have changed 'two' to 'three’ questionnaires throughout the paper as suggested.

On page 5 I have called AIOS a questionnaire, and also added some information about it and clarified why i was chosen.

My apologies for the wrongly ordered references, which I have now corrected.

Re describing the PEI earlier in the paper. In the methods section, on page 5, I have added the sentence 'These questionnaires are described in the results of the literature search'. It is difficult to bring the full description forward from page 10, because the choice of these two questionnaires is the result of the literature search, but the changed wording is clearly described here. I have corrected the label PEI-ac on page 12.

I have elaborated on the point about using PEI and W-BQ12 together in the discussion on page 17.