Author's response to reviews

Title: Australian women's use of complementary and alternative medicines to enhance fertility: exploring the experiences of women and practitioners

Authors:

Jo-Anne Rayner (j.rayner@latrobe.edu.au)
Helen L McLachlan (h.mclachlan@latrobe.edu.au)
Della A Forster (d.forster@latrobe.edu.au)
Rhian Cramer (arn_22_@hotmail.com)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Iratxe

Re: MS: 6035653812982822
‘Australian women's use of complementary and alternative medicines (CAM) to enhance fertility: exploring the experiences of women and practitioners’.

Thank you for the reviews of the above paper. Please find below a detailed point by point response to each of the reviewers’ comments. Changes to the format of the manuscript as required by the journal have also been made. Please see all changes as made listed below.

Thankyou again for considering this paper,

Yours sincerely

Dr Jo-Anne Rayner
Reviewer One: Alison Heawood

Minor amendments

1. p.11 ‘audio tapes’ has been changed to ‘audio recordings’

*The three focus group discussions were transcribed verbatim with all references to individuals and organisations removed, then checked against the audio recordings for missing words or mistakes.*

2. re: sub-theme ‘non-disclosure of CAM use’ within the second global theme. While we acknowledge the review has raised an important point about communication we do not agree with the suggestion made by the reviewer that this is a final global theme about ‘relationship (or lack of) between CAM and conventional care’. Women participating in the focus groups raised this issue in the discussion within the context of their experiences with assisted reproductive technology and the medical providers they consult. It was more about the patient/provider relationship rather than the relationship between CAM and conventional care and for this reason we do not consider the inclusion of a further global theme (with supporting data) is necessary.

Reviewer Two: Fuschia M. Sirois

Minor revisions

1. The reference (31) has been changed as suggested by the reviewer.


Changes to the format of the manuscript as required by the journal:

1. CAM has been removed from the title.

*Australian women’s use of complementary and alternative medicines to enhance fertility: exploring the experiences of women and practitioners.*

2. Equal contributors. The details of author contributions on the title page have been revised -no reference is to this made on the title page. Author contributions are listed on page 25.

3. The abstract has been structured into Background, Methods, Results and Conclusion.