Reviewer's report

Title: Teaching physiotherapy skills in culturally-diverse classes

Version: 1 Date: 24 March 2011

Reviewer: Lynley Bradnam

Reviewer's report:

The paper addresses the important issue of teaching physiotherapy skills to students of different cultures, as the profession seeks to increase the cultural diversity of physiotherapists in countries such as Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. The problems and solutions identified by the authors were well grounded in theories of cultural competence, ethical principles of decision making and in Physiotherapy and anti-discrimination legislation. The steps taken to resolve the identified problems were sensible and practical, and the generic framework for equitable physiotherapy education could be easily implemented in both educational and clinical settings. The paper is well written, logical and easy to follow.

I only have Discretionary Revisions:

1. I wonder if the literature cited in the paper regarding cultural competence and physiotherapy identified similar problems and if so, what were their solutions? A sentence or two outlining more explicitly the similarities and differences in problems identified when teaching physiotherapy skills would help set this work in context a little better in my opinion. Also, it would be interesting to know whether other institutions have used similar or different solutions to the ones implemented by the current authors.

2. I would remove the words 'the needs of' from the Abstract, Discussion, line 4 page 2, and from line 8 of page 4.

3. The authors may consider stating more explicitly in the agreed solutions what was done to ensure there was a 'safe environment created so that students can articulate their concerns to educators' as outlined in stage 2 of their process in the Discussion. In my experience, these students often find it difficult to voice concerns to a person in authority and I wondered what was done to encourage them to come forward. For example, were they assigned personal tutors?

4. Was there anything in the process to suggest that educators should be given extra 'training' in cultural issues relating to the teaching of physiotherapy skills from the perspective of the different cultures involved? If so, this could be added to the solutions outlined in the discussion.

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