Author's response to reviews

Title: Involving Students in Real-World Research: A Pilot Study for Teaching Research Skills

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Reviewer Comments – “Involving Students in Real-World Research: A Pilot Study for Teaching Research Skills”

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to these helpful reviewer comments.

Response to Reviewer 1: Martina Stamm

1. Please indicate the number of items of the questionnaire on housing and health for the housing conditions component and the respiratory health questions.

   Our response: This information has now been included, thank you (ie, n=35 and n=11).

2. Please specify the duration of the integrative lecture and provide precise information of its setting in the curriculum (course).

   Our response: This context around the teaching has now been included (see the paragraph following the subheading “teaching”).

3. Please make sure that the percentages given in the text and in Table 1 correspond exactly.

   Our response: This has been checked and the error fixed, thank you.

Reviewer 2: Richard Klaghofer

1. There is no control group! The study should be declared as a pilot study

   Our response: This is a good point. We have now described the study as a pilot study in the title, in the abstract (including the conclusion) and in the text.

2. Please give a better description of the questionnaire on housing and health (number of items, answer categories, sample items, psychometric properties)

   Our response: This has been done, see comments 1 & 2 in response to Reviewer Number 1. We are also in the process of putting the full questionnaire onto the Healthy Housing website (http://www.wnmeds.ac.nz/academic/dph/research/housing/index.html) and will be able to cite the precise URL of this at the manuscript proofing stage.

3. The setting of the integrative lecture is rather unclear: Please give more detailed information (e.g. duration)

   Our response: This extra context has been added, thank you.

Other Editorial Comments

1. Include more context information in the background section of your abstract, in addition to
the aims of your study.

*Our response:* This has now been done, thank you.

2. Include an Authors’ contributions section before the Acknowledgements and Reference list.

*Our response:* This has now been done, thank you.

**Final comment:** Thank you for the helpful comments that has helped us to improve the manuscript.