Reviewer's report

Title: '20 days protected learning' - students' experiences of an Overseas Nurses Programme - 4 years on: A retrospective survey

Version: 1 Date: 17 February 2011

Reviewer: Karen Francis

Reviewer's report:

1. The research questions were well defined.
2. The research study utilised an online survey method which was appropriate.
3. The data was reported was limited to basic descriptive statistics.
4. The manuscript adhered to the standards set by the journal.
5. The discussion and conclusions were balanced and supported the findings reported.
6. Limitations were highlighted.
7. The authors provided background on how and why the survey was developed and gave an overview of the items included.
8. The title is indicative of the content and the abstract provides sufficient detail to inform readers of the paper content.
9. The manuscript is well written with adequate citations supporting the arguments proffered. Figures are clear, labelled and referred to and explained in the text of the manuscript.

This research paper provides valuable feedback to the University offering the protected learning for overseas trained nurses. In addition, the findings are of value to the regulatory authority and the Government and may inform future policy and practice.

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'