Reviewer's report

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

Version: 2 Date: 8 March 2011

Reviewer: James Buchan

Reviewer's report:

1) "Ten nurses (response rate 1.1%) replied after an initial email. This increased to 251 nurses (27.7% response rate) following a second email. One hundred and forty-five (13.8%) emails ‘bounced’ leaving 72.3% (n=654) receiving the invitation email.

Although disappointing this is representative of on-line surveys [21]. Included within the results from the 27.7% of nurses were 512 comments to open ended questions" this requires re wording for clarity

2) "Despite 27.7% being a low response rate, data from the NMC [12] and our enrolment data suggest that Bournemouth University facilitated 80% of all nurses undertaking a '20 days protected learning' ONP from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and United States of America, increasing generalisability of the findings." ---but the point is that it is a 27.7% response from the survey population- not that the survey population is nearly the whole population- and cannot be claimed to be "seen as capturing the majority view"....27.7% is not the majority- either of the survey population or the whole population- requires re wording

NCLEX- is only offered in a small number of "home" countries- does this need to be clarified?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

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'