Reviewer's report

Title: Revisiting Vulnerability for Nursing

Version: 1 Date: 17 November 2011

Reviewer: Megan-Jane Johnstone

Reviewer's report:

This is an intelligent and well written paper, which stands to make an original and significant contribution of knowledge to the field. I wish I had written it! While some might disagree with the paper's central tenets, the propositions advanced are well argued and supported by pertinent literature. The MS has the capacity to stimulate timely robust intellectual debate on the subject in this and other journals.

I suggest that the author perhaps consider being a little more generous in regard to her appraisal of earlier works on vulnerability (remembering they were and are products of their time), ie: posit that 'as good as' the earlier works are, they are not sufficient and (as has been shown in the MS) conventional conceptualisations and practical applications of the notion of vulnerability warrant being extended to a more collective conceptualisation thereby making its treatment more 'complete' in nursing discourse. The author might also suggest that the novel conceptualisation of vulnerability she has advanced warrants being clearly delineated and explicated in the philosophic, theoretical, research, ethical and practice posture of nursing.

The author might also find the following references useful if not in this, then in her future work:


Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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'