Reviewer's report

Title: More age-care staff report helping care recipients following a brief depression awareness raising intervention

Version: 4 Date: 25 February 2013

Reviewer: Nigel Wellman

Reviewer's report:

Discretionary Revisions:

The authors acknowledge that the overlap of physical health problems and dementia make the recognition of depression particularly difficult in elderly care recipients. In my original review I raised the issue that in the UK where this reviewer is based, a very high percentage (in the range of 64-80%+) of the elderly people living in residential or nursing homes are estimated to have dementia and similarly, a high percentage of elderly people attending day care centres also have dementia. It would be helpful if the authors could include any available figures for the research sites or comparable Australian institutions, state whether the brief training intervention addressed this issue in any way and consider whether the extent to which the apparent under-recognition of depression in these elderly care recipients could be explained by the difficulty of recognising depressive symptoms in a population with high levels of dementia or expressional difficulties caused by stroke and other physical pathologies.

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 have no competing interests