Reviewer's report

**Title:** The influence of relationships on personhood in dementia care: A qualitative, hermeneutic study

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 15 November 2013

**Reviewer:** Dorothy Forbes

**Reviewer's report:**

Referee 2:
My comments in response to the authors’ revisions follow in quotation marks.

**Major Compulsory Revisions**
1) Reasons for not interviewing the persons with dementia have been added to the section Strengths and limitations of the study. (p. 31)

"In future research, please consider including persons with dementia by obtaining their family caregiver’s consent and the person’s with dementia ‘assent’ prior to each interview. I have never had difficulty obtaining ethical approval using this approach."

**Minor Essential Revisions**
1) Sentence corrected to: Participation observation may have influenced behaviour but concealed observation was ethically not an option. (p. 12)

"Should this read 'Participant' rather than 'Participation'?"

I agree with the remaining corrections.

Dorothy Forbes

**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.