Author's response to reviews

Title: Recognising the differences in the Nurse Consultant Role across context: A Study Protocol

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Professor Catia Cornacchia
Executive Editor
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Dear Professor Cornacchia

My name is Michelle Giles and I am currently a PhD candidate at the University of New England, New South Wales, Australia. Enclosed is a manuscript to be considered for publication in BMC Nursing. This paper is the study protocol from my PhD research and is titled ‘Recognising the differences in the Nurse Consultant Role across context: A Study Protocol’.

This study aims to gain a clearer understanding of the Nurse Consultant type role as an advanced practice nurse role across context and in particular distinguish between metropolitan and rural based roles in Australia. This study will add valuable insight in identifying the unique and diverse nature of the CNC role, how the role is applied in a variety of context and incorporate other stakeholder perspectives in order to understand the relational and integrated nature and impact of the role. The study uses a mixed method design underpinned by a realistic evaluation framework. The ‘context – mechanism – outcome’ approach of realistic evaluation provides a sound framework to examine the complex, diverse and multifaceted nature of the nurse consultant’s role.

I believe that this paper aligns well with the objectives of your journal as well as with contemporary global issues related to advanced nursing practice and the lack of role clarity highlighted in much of the international literature.

This research has approved by the University of New England, Health District and New South Wales Human Research Ethics Authorities. Funding for this project was provided internally from within the Local Health District.
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Thank you for considering this paper

Sincerely

Michelle Giles

On behalf of all authors