Reviewer’s report

Title: Clinicians’ caseload management behaviours as explanatory factors in patients’ length of time on caseloads: a predictive multilevel study in paediatric community occupational therapy

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2010

Reviewer: Maree Johnson

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have examined an interesting topic relating to occupational therapy caseloads and aspects of diagnosis and management that impact on length of time on caseload (service).

A retrospective record audit was undertaken, which is appropriate.

The authors do refer to an observation study but I was unsure of. I suggest this be removed or explained in more detail.

The data presented relating to characteristics of the modelling procedures are presented across several tables. The presentation is somewhat unusual but will be relevant to clinicians.

Predictors of length of time are detailed and steps taken in the analysis to deal with cluster effects are detailed to some extent. It is clear to this reader that the authors have attempted to deal with these difficult aspects.

The discussion and conclusions are clearly presented in terms of what is amenable to change or intervention which will have meaning for researchers and clinicians.

The limitations of the study, including the generalisability of the findings are clearly stated and appropriate.

Title and abstract are appropriate.

Writing style is concise and logical and easy to read and focused on clinicians. Lengthy discussion on analysis procedures has been minimised but adequate.

Minor revisions..

Materials and procedures refer to verbatim 'word for word'.. ? dates are numbers..? as presented in records??

Page 7 first paragraph.. and a fifth (??12%)....is this correct..

Page 8 2nd paragraph commencing Length of time on caseload..

Providing treatment was associated with AN increase.. and placing on review was associated with AN increase ...