Author's response to reviews

Title: Study Protocol: Screening and Treatment of Alcohol-Related Trauma (START) A Randomised Controlled Trial

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor,

“Study Protocol: Screening and Treatment of Alcohol-Related Trauma (START) – A Randomised Controlled Trial”

We would like to thank the BMC Editorial team to review our manuscript and very useful comments. Please find the revised manuscript to address issues identified by reviewers team in considering the above review paper for publication.

Please find an outline of response to the issues of concern raised by the reviewers team.

1) Study Protocol - As you may be aware, it is the policy of the journal not to peer review study protocols where ethical and external funding approval have been obtained, as these processes usually involve peer review and as there is little possibility to change a protocol after enrolment begins. Therefore, please clarify whether you have an external funding for your study. If you do, please send evidence of your approvals to us by email.

Thanks for sharing your policy with us. Yes, I have acknowledged them in the submitted version. We have received the funding outcome via email from the Northern Territory Department of Health and Families, our state Government organisation and I did not have the email now. However, I would send evidence of the funding approval from our Division leader Associate Professor Tricia Nagel and our Institution newsletter – Menzies goodvibes.

Our study also has full ethics approval from Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of NT Department of Health and Families and Menzies School of Health Research and approval number is HREC 2010-1438. I have stated it in the submitted manuscript. That would be solid evidence to demonstrate to prove the external funding approval.

2) Proof of external funding should include details of the amount of funding that was awarded for your study.

Associate Professor Tricia’s letter stating the amount funding is $150,000 and please refers it.

3) Please also provide a list of any manuscripts that are under submission with other journals based on this study protocol.

We ensure that we did not submit any manuscript anywhere.
Many Thanks to the reviewers for accepting this manuscript.

Your sincerely,
Rama Jayaraj