Author's response to reviews

Title: How do small rural primary health care services sustain themselves in a constantly changing health system environment?

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The Editor
BMC Health Services Research

Dear Editor,

**Manuscript submission: “How do small rural primary health care services sustain themselves in a constantly changing health system environment?”**

Thank you for your response regarding the above submission to your journal. We are pleased to accept your suggestion of re-submitting the paper as a Correspondence Type 3 article. After looking at the relevant guidelines and the suggested example paper, we have made the following amendments:

- Adoption of ‘less formal’ language for some of the section headings. For example; ‘Rural health service sustainability and the impact of change’ is now ‘How does change affect rural health service sustainability?’ We believe this more conversational style is appropriate for a correspondence article.
- We have moved some text from the end of page 3 to the beginning of page 3 to make the purpose of the article more clear i.e. “Most research examining rural health service sustainability…..”
- We have reduced the amount of text concerning PHC evaluation models, essential service requirements and environmental enablers (first 2 paragraphs, page 4 of the original submission).
- We have removed the heading ‘Discussion’ from the paper. The first paragraph of that section has now been included in the results and is followed by the heading ‘Conclusion’. The final sentence of the original paper has also been moved to this point to emphasise the role that various stakeholders can play in ensuring the sustainability of rural PHC services.
- Other minor changes have been made throughout the text to improve expression, but without altering the meaning of the article.

We hope that these amendments are satisfactory to you and look forward to receiving reviewers’ comments in the very near future.

Please contact me if any further information is required.

Yours sincerely,

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