Reviewer's report

Title: A qualitative study of a social and emotional wellbeing service for remote Indigenous Australians: Implications for access, effectiveness, and sustainability.

Version: 1 Date: 3 January 2013

Reviewer: Heather Gridley

Reviewer's report:

I am pleased to have the opportunity to review this paper, from the limited perspective of a non-Indigenous, urban-based psychologist who is keen to see more focus on non-mainstream settings and applications of community/counselling practice. I recommend that it be accepted for publication following attention to a number of issues identified below. While some of these are major and compulsory, they are quite straightforward and do not need to be re-viewed by me prior to final acceptance.

The paper reports on a limited but important study of a service delivery initiative in a remote Indigenous community. The qualitative study is not so much an evaluation as a series of interviews, and seems based on an assumption that Indigenous and remote community disadvantage is mainly about lack of access to services. So there is not a strong preventive or public health framework underpinning the research. Nonetheless, the study appears to have been undertaken respectfully and sensitively in relation to the cultural expectations and needs of the community itself, and the conclusions and recommendations are mostly well grounded in the data. There are valuable lessons to be learned from the findings themselves as well as for the conduct of research in such a vulnerable community and culturally specific context.

See attached for detailed comments and suggested revisions

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