Reviewer's report

Title: Barriers and Facilitators to Evidence-Use in Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation: A Review of the Literature

Version: 2 Date: 21 April 2013

Reviewer: Roberto Forero

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ESSENTIAL REVISIONS

General comments
• This type of evidence in decision making is not a new topic in public health research. Did you find any meta-analysis?
• The objective of the review is not clear.
• The main analysis appears to be based on 14 papers (this is a small number) considering the five themes described on page 2 in the results section of the abstract.
• What is the importance of understanding barriers and facilitators in decision making?
• What is the theory and purpose behind this article?

Specific comments
• Page 6, Results section: It is not clear how the exclusion criteria were implemented. Please describe the 733 documents eliminated by exclusion criteria.
• Page 6, last paragraph. What about studies in other OECD countries? Scotland is part of the UK.
• Page 7, Table 2. The purpose of this table is unclear and do not add much to the study, other than providing a summary of the 14 studies and the description of the type of methodology used.
• Page 15, discussion section. First paragraph. I am not sure that the review actually “fills the gap”. It appears to increase it.

In general, what are the common factors across barriers and facilitators? The distinction between clinicians and managers confronting different barriers is very interesting and important. Maybe the authors should focus on these to two levels rather than try to cover all aspects of decision making.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
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.