Reviewer's report

Title: Economic hardship associated with managing chronic illness: a qualitative inquiry

Version: 2 Date: 21 July 2009

Reviewer: P M (Mieke) Rijken

Reviewer's report:

To my opinion the revised manuscript has much improved, although I still believe the authors could have made more references to international research (not only Australian) in the Discussion section.

In the first sentence of the Abstract the authors should skip the last part of the sentence 'the impact is often felt more severely by older people', because this is speculative and not based on evidence.

In the Background section I would suggest the authors to provide data about the burden of chronic illness worldwide, instead of its burden in Australia (references 3 and 4).

I found it a bit confusing which part of the research belonged to the first qualitative study and which part were the secondary analyses of the qualitative material (see the new text on page 7).

Under the heading Results, second sentence should be: Most of them were older than 65 years.

Discussion: the second paragraph, starting with 'Managing serious, long-term conditions ...'. Please leave out 'and this burden inevitably builds with age'.

The authors should carefully check the spelling throughout the whole manuscript.

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

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.