Reviewer’s report

Title: Overcoming language barriers in community-based research with refugee and migrant populations: options for using bilingual workers

Version: 1 Date: 23 October 2013

Reviewer: Gilles Dussault

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Major Compulsory Revisions
1- The “Reflections on using bilingual workers” should be based on evidence from the results of the focus groups and the interviews. For example, did researchers observed variations in responses by category of interviewers? if so, how can these be explained.

Minor Essential Revisions
1- Give number and profile of interviewers by category
2. Describe profile of respondents: age, education, country of origin, status in Australia, time since arrival, etc.
3- Specify language used in interview, and whether it matched interviewer’s mother tongue
4- Indicate number of refusals (if possible by category of interviewers)
5- How many focus groups were conducted, topics covered, profile of participants
6- Questionnaires: how was the contents developed, was there any validation
7- P.5, § 1: strengths and weaknesses: does that refer to advantages and disadvantages in Table 1? if so, use the same terminology
8. P.5, §5. Give more information on training sessions: contents, trainers, number of participants, etc.

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’