Reviewer's report

Title: Child health nurses in the Solomon Islands: lessons for Pacific countries

Version: 1 Date: 11 August 2012

Reviewer: John Vince

Reviewer's report:

1. Is the question posed by the authors new and well defined?
   Yes

2. Are the methods appropriate and well described, and are sufficient details provided to replicate the work?
   Yes

3. Are the data sound and well controlled?
   There is no need for controls in this case study

4. Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?
   Yes

5. Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?
   Yes

6. Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
   Yes

7. Is the writing acceptable
   Yes

Minor Essential Revisions

1. Introduction Para 2 sentence 2 Rewrite as "Seventy five percent of child deaths in the Solomon Islands occur in the first year of life".

2. Introduction para 4 Sentence 2. add the word "in" "....among the lowest in Asia and Pacific".

3. Methods Para 2 "The interviews consisted of 10 main questions (see text-box)". In the manuscript I have there is no text-box.

4. Results Headings should be uniform font- some are bold some not.

5. Results Para 7 Nurses perceptions of their roles. Sentence 1 Suggest add "either" as "A common theme was a feeling of being overwhelmed by the scope of their role without the support of similarly trained colleagues to rely on and
either no doctors or junior doctors...."

6. Discussion Para 3 reference to the cost of training in PNG is incorrect . ref 11 is to the WHO IMCI Guidelines. I suspect the reference should be to ref 8 - or perhaps another source.

7. Discussion Para 8 sentence 4 the word standard should be plural ".... training resources and standards.....".

Discretionary Revisions

Discussion para 3 last sentence "No Solomon Island nurses have been trained at the University of PNG (would prefer Paua New Guinea) since 2006 for reasons of cost, socila dislocation and concern about the combined midwifery and child health course not providing a sufficient level of competency" The Authors might like to include the fact that UPNG has now reverted to single midwifery and child health programmes because of concerns that the combined course did not allow the students to obtain the required competency level in the time provided.

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.

John D Vince