Reviewer's report

Title: Status, challenges and facilitators of consumer involvement in Australian health and medical research

Version: 1 Date: 20 September 2010

Reviewer: Paul Ward

Reviewer's report:

Overall, this paper fills a gap in the Australian literature on 'consumer involvement in research'. The methods seem fine and the paper is well written.

Minor Essential Revisions

1: Please provide more detail on the three types of people/organisations included in your survey - maybe some examples, especially for International readers who may have different forms of governance

2: What details do you have on the people responding on behalf of the Research Organisations? The paper was specific to "health and medical research", but how do you know that the person at a particular University had the knowledge of what goes on with respect to this type of research?

3: Obviously health and medical research is a very broad church - so there may be many different 'practices' within a particular research organisation, which could not be picked up by your survey. Please comment on this.

4: A recent paper in Journal of Sociology by Ward et al (the team that undertook research on this in the UK) found fairly widespread negativity on behalf of researchers (more from the lab based than the social science based researchers) - please comment on this in your Discussion

5: The Discussion section was rather thin - it simply described the findings, rather than subjecting them to theoretical scrutiny - you need to provide a level of understanding which help to explain the patterns in the data that you found.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I have written 2 papers on "consumer involvement in research", although I do not feel that I have Competing Interests.