Reviewer's report

Title: Collaborating with consumer and community representatives in health and medical research in Australia: results from an evaluation

Version: 1 Date: 19 January 2011

Reviewer: Jonathan Boote

Reviewer's report:

This is a very interesting paper reporting a formative evaluation of consumer involvement within an Australian health research project. There are very few such evaluations reported in the literature, making this paper a useful contribution. The methods are appropriate and soundly used, generating a range of qualitative and quantitative data that are accurately reported in my view. The authors are right to state that no standardised measurement tool currently exists to evaluate the impact of consumer involvement on health research processes and outcomes. However, it was positive to see the authors making use of previously published principles of successful consumer involvement in their evaluation. The paper is very well written and easy to read.

Minor essential revisions:
I think there is an error on the second to last line of the conclusion: should CCCRs read CCRs?

Discretionary revisions
I think the paper's introduction could be improved if reference was made to developments in consumer involvement in research in countries other than Australia (such as the USA and the UK) and if the authors could outline other arguments in support of consumer involvement apart from it being a policy imperative (i.e. epistemological, moral and effectiveness/consequentialist arguments).

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