Reviewer's report

Title: Psychological Advocacy Towards Healing (PATH): randomised controlled trial to determine the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a psychological intervention delivered by domestic violence advocates

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2013

Reviewer: Agnes Tiwari

Reviewer's report:

This is a well-written manuscript providing a detailed account of a trial designed to assess the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of a psychological intervention delivered by domestic violence advocates. The study design, an open, pragmatic, parallel group, individually randomised controlled trial, should be able to test the primary and secondary objectives as stated. The nested qualitative study will likely provide detailed and personal accounts to enhance interpretation of the results. On the whole, the methods are described clearly and in sufficient detail thus allowing replication of the work.

Minor essential revisions:

(1) It is stated that researchers continue to prompt women (or their locators) for the return of the questionnaire until week 12 after posting. What does 'continue' mean and after how many times will 'continue prompting' stop?

(2) What exactly does the participant receive in the 8 SPA sessions? Are the materials repeated 8 times? Or are there specific topics for each of the sessions?

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.