Author’s response to reviews

Title: Women’s experience of unplanned out-of-hospital birth in paramedic care

Authors:

Belinda Flanagan (bflanaga@usc.edu.au)
Bill Lord (wlord@usc.edu.au)
Rachel Reed (rredd1@usc.edu.au)
Gail Crimmins (gcrimmin@usc.edu.au)

Version: 1 Date: 29 Jul 2019

Author’s response to reviews:

Response to reviewer 1

In the Methods and Result section the authors write that they interviewed 22 women. How many unplanned births were during the study period? - how many % are the interviewed of all?

Response – Thank you for your comments, line 2 of the background states how many births occurred in Australia to provide context, I have added Qld specific data. I disagree that there needs to be a ‘% interviewed’ as this does not represent the methods used in qualitative research.

The recruitment was absolutely free or were there some inclusion criteria to cover the diversity of age, social group, status, education etc (so that the research should match the picture of the society)?

Response – recruitment was free, no incentives were provided to participants. Inclusion criteria is stated in the methods.

Based on citations and results it emerges that some women were satisfied and other dissatisfied with paramedics ‘behaviour, communication, consent, respect and empathy and
confident. Was positive or negative evaluation of the experience prevailing? It would be interesting to compare satisfaction and dissatisfaction in particular items and also how many women rated positively and how many negatively.

Response – Thank you, in qualitative research it is not required to count how many had either good or bad experiences. I am simply interested in the individual experience.

Response to reviewer 2

Throughout the paper, the word "data" is used and is conjugated with the plural sense. The word datum is singular, the word data is plural, please conjugate accordingly.

Response – corrected thank you.

In the results section it would be very helpful, and increase the generalizability, if the authors would describe what the proportion of respondents reporting positive/neutral/negative comment. The authors too often use vague descriptions such as "some women".

Response – Thank you but this approach is not consistent with the methodology used. Narrative Inquiry is about the individual experience not how many had a good or bad experience.

Were there incidents of delivery complications?

Response – No there was no evidence of complications. However, there is no definitive way to make this claim as the individual cases were not reviewed for the clinical management provided only the patient experience.

What was the time interval between delivery and birth, were there differences in perceptions if that interval was longer versus if the interview was immediately after the delivery?

Response – Thank you but I unsure how “time interval between delivery and birth” is relevant. I assume this refers to interval between delivery and interview? This is a qualitative study concerning the patients’ story, the inclusion criteria stated in the methods section states the birth should have occurred during the previous 5 years. There is research to state the interval in time has no impact on the recall of the experience however the authors were keen to have a reasonable shot time frame.

Please add a table that describes the demographics of the respondents age, urban/rural/remote, socio-economic, 1st time delivery/multiple deliveries, education, pregnancy care, previous out-of-hospital deliveries etc...

Response – Thank you I feel the first paragraph of the results section adequality addresses the demographics of the participants.
Please describe the setting where the interview took place.

Response – Additions made to the methods.

The vast majority of the conclusion is commentary and not supported by the data presented in the paper. They are probably correct but should be moved to the discussion.

Response – Thank you, restructuring of the discussion and conclusion done to address the comment. See track changes.

Specific comments:

Page 5 - "birth stories were a reliable and credible form of data" - was this somehow measured? How did the team validate reliability/credibility?

Response – Additions made to page 5 of methods.

Page 6 "as interviews progressed, ongoing analysis of the data occurred...." what did this ongoing analysis involve?

Response – Thank you addressed in the last sentence of the methods, additions made.