Reviewer's report

**Title:** Developing a community-based psycho-social intervention with older people and third sector workers for anxiety and depression: a qualitative study

**Version:** 0 **Date:** 19 Apr 2017

**Reviewer:** Melinda Stanners

**Reviewer's report:**

This study is well conceptualised and highlights some key factors highly relevant to the experience of being an older person. I especially appreciate the acknowledgement of third sector organisations and volunteers as playing a critical role in the well-being of older people. I enjoyed reading this manuscript and am excited to see where the NOTEPAD study leads. I do have some questions/comments though.

1. Using the term 'stress' was initially a sticking point for me, as although they share symptomatic overlap they are different clinical constructs, so I wondered whether participants would conceptualise stress as anxiety in their responses. This is a pedantic point, but may influence assumptions made about the data, so it would be good to comment on this.

2. Amongst older people and workers only two were male. Regarding workers this aligns with the proportion of women to men in these roles, but gave me pause regarding the older person participants. You do show this in the tables, but you don't comment on it there; whilst you discuss the implications in the limitations section, using the term 'older persons' throughout the results and discussion sections is a little bit misleading as a consequence. It might be more transparent to acknowledge the limited accessibility of males in the method, and possibly exclude the males to refer to participants more accurately as 'older women' - this would still facilitate the important observation that most groups are attended by women and suggestion that few activities are male-oriented. (As an aside, you might find the 'Men's Sheds' movement in Australia interesting, as it seeks to fill this gap: [http://mensshed.org/](http://mensshed.org/)).

3. Proof reading is needed, as there are multiple small typos throughout. For example:
   - Page 4 Line 10: end of sentence requires a full stop.
   - Page 5 Line 14: Table title should read 'older people' as 'people' is already plural.
Page 5 Line 16: Table title should read 'third sector workers', as 'worker' is singular.

Page 8 Lines 3-4: Other quotes include a stop at the end of the quote; presentation should be consistent.

Page 9 Line 10: I think you mean 'The provision of encouragement'.

Page 10 Line 16: The sentence requires punctuation. For example "If I feel a bit low, I put the television on" [Older Person 12]. Another shared her views'.

Page 10 Line 17: 'her friend whom'.

I'm looking forward to reading about NOTEPAD's progress in the future.

Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

Not relevant to this manuscript

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Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

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