Reviewer's report

Title: Experiences and needs of carers of Aboriginal children with a disability: a qualitative study

Version: 0 Date: 27 Jul 2017

Reviewer: L Etheridge

Reviewer's report:

This is a generally well written paper that considers an important topic. It is good to see that the unique community needs and practices of patients and their families are being considered. I am glad to see a qualitative approach taken which is appropriate for addressing the specific concerns and individual voices of the participants and their families. However I do not believe that IPA was the best method of analysis. The main aim of IPA is to focus on the lived and embodied experience of the participants and this aspect of their experiences is not the main focus of this paper; further more the double hermeneutic aspect of IPA is missing entirely. There is no justification provided for the choice of analysis in the method section. The results of this study are important and could have important practice implications, but they are undermined by the inappropriate use of IPA. Given the focus on resourcing, finances and access to support that are all addressed in the results I would recommend that the results are revisited using Thematic Analysis (see Braun & Clarke, 2006). This would allow the authors to take a broader look at their participants experiences, views, attitudes and opinions without having to attempt to solely focus on the embodied experience. I believe that this approach would allow a much more robust interpretation of the results.

The main concern about the research is outlined above, but the following issues also need to be considered:

In the introduction I would like to see more emphasis on the Aboriginal context. The issues outlined relating to the importance of early intervention, the long term impact on health, education and employment outcomes, as well as the generally negative impact on wellbeing for carers is not specific to the Aboriginal community and has been evidenced across different ethnicities and socioeconomic groups. I would recommend some more focus on what are the specific concerns of the Aboriginal community. I have no doubt that the Aboriginal community does have unique cultural needs but this needs to be represented more strongly in the introduction.

It would have been good to see what disabilities are represented within the sample. The definition of disability is very broad and so a bit more specificity relating to the sample would be welcome. I believe this would allow for a more in depth understanding of the participants experiences.
With regards to the presentation of the results there is a lack of consistency in how the results are presented. In the 'costs' section of the results the data is presented in a table, but elsewhere it is integrated more into the narrative. It is not clear why this difference in presentation exists. My preference would be for the data to be integrated throughout the narrative results as I think that this allows the voices of the participants to be more present.

Were any positive aspects of kinship care described by the participants? This is a difficult experience for the participants and it is clear from the data that the participants have an incredible amount of strength and resilience. Is it possible to bring some of the positives or participants strengths in the article? This could be done in the discussion perhaps when discussing implications for support and practice.

I think that this is an important and valuable research area that has the potential to shape practice for the better. However, an inappropriate analysis means that the participants experiences are not being done justice which is a shame.

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

No

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

Unable to assess

**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

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
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