Author's response to reviews

Title: Protocol for a randomised controlled trial of an outreach support program for family carers of older people discharged from hospital

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Author's response to reviews: see over
13 May 2015

Re: MS: 3566399901679972 Protocol for a randomised controlled trial of an outreach support program for family carers of older people discharged from hospital for BMC Geriatrics.

Dear Editorial Team, in the email received May 8, I was asked to address the following:

1. Acknowledgements
   - Move acknowledgments to the end of the manuscript.
   - Clarify if we would like to thank the people listed in this section.
   - Separate thanks from the funding declaration.

2. Each author should be listed separately, specifying their contribution to the study, at the end of the manuscript.

3. Add a competing interests section at the end of the manuscript.

4. Add the abstract into the main submission after the title page.

5. Specify in the text that we are adhering to CONSORT guidelines

6. Include the figure heading in the manuscript text and upload figures without the heading but leaving the number (eg, Figure 1).

7. Clarify if the study protocol was peer reviewed prior to funding receipt.

8. Detail the Trial Registration Number

In response, I am resubmitting the main manuscript and figure files with Points 1-7 addressed. As now stated in the acknowledgement section, the study protocol was peer reviewed before it was funded. The review process is documented at http://www.health.wa.gov.au/researchdevelopment//docs/funding/2014_SHRAC_RTP_Guidelines_for_Applicants.pdf. We have already provided the funding outcome letter. The Trial Registration Number was already documented with the abstract as per BMC Geriatrics protocol paper guidelines and is as follows: Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trial Registry ACTRN12614001174673. When revising acknowledgements I realised that, because this is a protocol paper, one of the people being acknowledged merited an authorship role as she helped develop the protocol and funding submission before retirement from the University. I have
therefore been in touch with her. She has reviewed and agreed with the paper submitted and I have now included her as an author.

Many thanks and sincere regards,

Associate Professor Christine Toye