Reviewer's report

Title: Can digital stories go where palliative care research has never gone before? A descriptive qualitative study exploring the application of an emerging public health research method in an Indigenous palliative care context

Version: 0 Date: 01 Feb 2017

Reviewer: Gregory Crawford

Reviewer's report:

This is interesting and very relevant work to assess the cultural acceptability of a research methodology

The quality of the written English is excellent but I found the extensive use of Maori difficult. This is an article written for an English journal. I do appreciate that there is colour and cultural significance by understanding words but the continuing use of Maori words rather than English limited the easy accessibility and understanding of the text. In New Zealand this may not be as apparent as some of the words such as Rōpū, Whakawhānaungatanga, Kaumātua, taonga and manaakitanga may already be part of the vocabulary.

There are several minor formatting issues e.g. p6 l5 change of font and possibly not a complete sentence; p7 l18 capitalisation of Rather is incorrect; p10 l42 there is an extra unnecessary ). Reference 9 has a spelling error "baesd"

The Abstract was much better structured than the paper. In particular there was much detail in the Discussion which was actually Method. The major themes were clearly articulated in the Abstract but in the Discussion the paper was much less clear and did not give a clear statement of themes that was as accessible as the succinct manner of the Abstract

I was surprised that there was no justification of rigor of the qualitative method of the research and that the actual number of participants was cited as a limitation rather than using some comments about whether there was or appeared to be for example some saturation or at least some indication of support of themes and comments.

This is an important paper and the use of this process to assess even whether the method of investigation is culturally appropriate is laudable. I found some of the reporting might have been more succinct.
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.

No

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:

Not suitable for publication unless extensively edited

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