Reviewer’s report

Title: Effectiveness of a Culturally Tailored SMS Alcohol Intervention for Same-Sex Attracted Women: Protocol for an RCT

Version: 0 Date: 13 Nov 2018

Reviewer: Toby Lea

Reviewer's report:

This paper describes the protocol for a randomised controlled trial of a SMS intervention for alcohol use for same-sex attracted women (SSAW) in Australia. The paper is well-written and the study protocol is clearly described. This is an important topic, and as far as I am aware is the first study of its kind focused on SSAW. This study has the potential to make an important contribution to the field and improve alcohol use outcomes for SSAW, and I look forward to seeing the results.

I only have minor comments which the authors may wish to consider.

1. **Introduction:** could some additional, brief information be provided about the populations studied in SMS interventions conducted to date described in the systematic review?

2. **Methods:** a brief description of the Rainbow Women's Help-Seeking study and the ALICE study, from which study participants may be recruited, would be helpful.

3. **Methods:** the baseline survey asks about gender identity. Are transgender women eligible? What about non-binary and other gender diverse people?

4. **Intervention:** could the authors include examples of the text messages provided to the intervention group in a Figure?

5. **Intervention Mapping framework:** the logic model of change could be more clearly described, as well as what steps 4, 5 and 6 entail. Are steps 5 and 6 (evaluation) carried out after the study is completed? On lines 251-2, the authors state that this paper is concerned with steps 5 and 6, an evaluation of the intervention, but the current manuscript is a description of the study protocol.
6. Measures: For the AUDIT, please describe the score range and what a score of 8+ means. This is important as it is as an eligibility criterion for participation. Likewise for other measures, please ensure that the scoring is well described and how to interpret higher scores.

7. Services: for Australia-specific services (e.g., Lifeline), a brief description of what these services do would be good for an international audience.

8. Figure 1 was not included in the files available to me for review, so I could not comment on this.

9. Table 1: As the intervention group provides data each week on alcohol use, the alcohol use row should be amended to reflect this.

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.

I am able to assess the statistics

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

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal