Reviewer’s report

Title: Indigenous health: Designing a clinical orientation program valued by learners

Version: 0 Date: 09 Dec 2016

Reviewer: Jennifer Reath

Reviewer's report:

Dear Authors

Congratulations on an interesting and valuable paper.

Please find key comments below:

1. Good introduction and rationale for the research.

2. Methods are well described.

3. Results
   - Why did fewer students attend the clinical orientation compared with indigenous orientation?
   - Differing completed responses make the calculations difficult to check when these are not clarified e.g. p9 Line 20 quotes 286 students at 96% yet the number completing the survey is noted on p8 as 351 - 286/351 is not 96%!
   - Median scores described on p9 appear incorrect from the descriptors in the text, which are in reverse numeric order compared to those in Figure 1
   - Table 1 - headings could be more explicit

4. Discussion
   - Occasionally long convoluted sentences could be more simply expressed e.g. p 16 "These findings provide empirical evidence of the core elements of curriculum development that might enable clinicians to overcome their inability to enact culturally-sensitive care [20],
which is particularly relevant, as health practitioners frequently express concern about implementing specific cultural competencies during clinical encounters"

Also the sentence lines 21 -32 on p17

Greater use of commas may assist with understanding of some of the longer sentences.

- Some sentences unclear e.g. p18 "First, we did not include detailed interviews with respondents to explore the findings with an opportunity for dialog between respondent and interviewer to explore the concepts in more detail."

- Outcomes of the research are a little overstated as on p16 "only two previous studies have evaluated the effects of indigenous health education on clinician practice" - implying an evaluation of clinical practice which is not a part of this study.

I would further argue that the next stage of the research, before "…exploration of the impact of the curriculum on patient experience and clinical outcomes" should be some objective measurement of clinical competence (rather than just confidence and self reported competence as in this study).

- Typos as in Reference 22; first sentence of conclusions

- Occasional use of words that appear to be more jargon than to add meaning e.g. use of "meaningful" in last sentence of conclusions.

5. Work needed on Figures and placement of accompanying text

6. Abstract clear and appropriate

Thank you for taking the time to present this work

Jenny Reath

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 recommend additional statistical review

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

Needs some language corrections before being published

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