Reviewer’s report

Title: The Journey with Dementia from the Perspective of Bereaved Family Caregivers: A Qualitative Descriptive Study

Version: 2 Date: 23 September 2014

Reviewer: Wanda Martin

Reviewer’s report:

Minor Essential Revisions:
1. There is a missing name on line 250 that does not correspond with the reference number indicated.

Discretionary Revisions:
1. The background is well defined and the need to understand the experience of family caregivers of people with dementia is clear, given the projected numbers. However, it is less clear what understanding this experience will provide.

2. The data is sound, with good description of how it was collected and who the participants were. There are some minor questions, for example, on line 157 the authors indicate the interviews resulted in rich data calling for further analysis. This is a bit of teaser, leaving the reader to wonder why more is not mentioned here, or more analysis is not provided here.

3. The authors are not clear on how they identified the major themes.

4. They provide tables with sub-themes and quotes to be transparent on the formulation of sub-themes. I find it more effective to have the quotes embedded in the results/discussion as an indication of a particular point.

5. The structure of results and then discussion does not work well for qualitative research in general, but that may be what is required of the journal.

6. Generally the writing is clear. There is some passive voice in the introduction, which is distracting, and the occasional correction needed, as I indicated in the manuscript. The discussion flows very well, but I would like to see a “so what” in the conclusion beyond “appropriate support”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.