Author's response to reviews

Title: Human rights and mental health in post-apartheid South Africa: lessons from health care professionals working with suicidal inmates in the prison system

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dear Natalie Pafitis

Re: IHHR-D-17-00016R1

Thank you for the opportunity to further refine our manuscript entitled, “Human rights and mental health in post-apartheid South Africa: lessons from health care professionals working with suicidal inmates in the prison system”.

We have corrected the manuscript as detailed below in response to the editorial and review comments. The changes are all shown in track changes in the resubmitted manuscript.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these revisions and for considering our paper for publication.

Kind regards

Jason Bantjes

Response to Editor’s Comments:

Editor’s comment:

Authors’ response:

Please move your 'Declarations' section to before your References
We have moved the 'Declarations' section to before the References.

See revised manuscript on p. 23, lines 503-536.

Please state at the end of your 'Authors' Contributions' section that 'All authors read and approved the final manuscript.'

We have stated at the end of the 'Authors' Contributions' section that 'All authors read and approved the final manuscript.'

See revised manuscript on p. 23, line 533.

Response to reviewer 1 (Brian McKenna) comments:

Reviewer’s comment:

Authors’ response:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the revision of this manuscript. This is a marked improvement and I applaud you for making the findings stronger in relation to the South African context and the challenges faced by clinicians in the prisons concerned.

My suggestions are now minor:-

Thank you for these affirming words. We also believe that the manuscript has been strengthened by your helpful review.

12. References required on p. 5 at the end of the sentences on line 102, line 111 and line 115.

We have added references for these claims.

See revised manuscript on:

p.5, line 104,

p.5, line 105,

p.5, line 115.

It is "each of whom.." on p.8, line 181.

And again on p.9, line 184.

We have made the correction "each of whom..".
See revised manuscript on p.8, line 178 and again on p.8, line 180.

Replace "medical sisters" with "medical nurses" on p. 9, line 187.

We replaced "medical sisters" with "medical nurses".

See revised manuscript on p.8, line 183.

Independent analysis does not "triangulate the findings". Please remove this reference on p.9, line 203.

We removed the reference "triangulate the findings".

See revised manuscript on p.9, line 198.

On p. 12, line 254 the tense needs to be changed from "are" to "were".

We corrected the tense from "are" to "were".

See revised manuscript on p 11, line 232.

On p.17, line 379, clarification is requirement of what was actually added by Sue.

We amended the text on p.17, line 379, to clarify that nothing was in fact added by Sue.

See revised manuscript on p. 15, line 331.

The sub-heading on "Anxiety, impotence, sadness and hopelessness" (pp. 18-19, lines 398-430) consists of almost all quotes. This section needs to be re-written to reflect a balance between author narrative and quotes.

We substantially reworked the sub-heading on "Anxiety, impotence, sadness and hopelessness", so that there is a better balance between author narrative and quotes. This necessitated the adding of some additional text.

See revised manuscript on p. 16, lines 341-390.

P.20, line 453 change the tense of "draw" to "drew".

We changed the tense from "draw" to "drew".

See revised manuscript on p.19, line 412.

P.23, lines 507-508, the sentence beginning "A context ..." needs to be rewritten to provide greater clarity.
We have reworked the sentence beginning "A context ...", to provide greater clarity on what we are trying to communicate. We have expanded the text to clarify why SA is sometimes described as a posy-conflict society, but how there continues to be violence and conflict within this democratic “new” SA.

See revised manuscript on p. 21, lines 463-472.

P.23, lines 512-514, remove the phrase in the brackets.

We removed the phrase in brackets formerly on p .23, lines 512-514. And added this information to the end of the paragraph.

See revised manuscript on p. 21, lines 474-476 and lines 479-482.