Reviewer’s report

Title: An investigation into the association of pre- and post-migration experiences on the self-rated health status among new resettled adult humanitarian refugees to Australia. A protocol for a mixed methods study.

Version: 0 Date: 24 Sep 2018

Reviewer: Henrike Galenkamp

Reviewer’s report:

My general impression is that this is a well written and focused research protocol, that might adds to the available literature on this subject. The plans for data collection and data analysis seem appropriate for the research questions that the authors aim to answer.

I have a few comments:

General:

-My first comment is on the use of the terms health and self-rated health. On page 3, it is stated that 'Nations need to understand the health needs of this vulnerable and ever-growing population'. It may be discussed more extensively what the outcomes that will be included in this study measure and do not measure. For example, it is well-known that self-rated health is influenced by all kinds of chronic (somatic and mental) diseases, but these will not be measured. So this study will only give insight in the health needs to a certain extent.

-In addition to the first comment, the authors use 'positive health outcomes' multiple times. It does not become clear what this means, or if it is just to state that the reference group will be those with PTSS/mental illness/poor SRH?

Methods:

-Page 9: It is not clear what is meant with 'eligible' Principal Applicants. What were selection criteria, other than that people should be registered as applicants for a visa?

-Page 9: To what extent is representativeness an issue with the BNLA, and will this be an issue with the qualitative data collection? If applicants with the best English language proficiency take part in the study, this will limit generalizability of the results. On page 20, the authors further write that 'it is anticipated that potential participants will already feel some sense of belonging, security and trust with these centers'. Could this have impact on the mental health of these participants? With regard to possible selection bias, could the authors provide some more information on who take part in the English classes? Is this compulsory?
It is unclear whether multivariate panel data models and mixed effect models will be done at the same time or separately. Given the research questions and the design at hand, I would expect that data will be analyzed using mixed effect models, taking into account clustered data within families as well as clustered data within respondents (longitudinally) at the same time.

**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

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