Reviewer's report

Title: How and how well do knowledge brokers facilitate knowledge translation in health-related settings? A systematic review and thematic analysis

Version: 1 Date: 13 July 2015

Reviewer: Maureen Dobbins

Reviewer's report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this well written manuscript. Overall, this paper is comprehensive and is a useful contribution to the KT literature. I have only three suggestions for improvement which are minor essential revisions but which I believe will strengthen the paper

1) provide greater justification for the use of a systematic review with thematic analysis approach, rather than alternative approaches such as a realist review. so in other words, what is it that was achieved better by doing an SR, rather than a realist review. what are the pros and cons of either approach, or others.

2) it is not at all clear why the METAQAT tool was used to appraise the evidence when many other, internationally accepted tools exist to appraise the quality of intervention studies. clearer justification should be provided as well as data to prove that this tool is comparable to the already existing tools.

3) in the results section where the results of Dobbins et al are reported, additional details on explanations for why no effect was observed would give the reader a more fulsome explanation that would be useful for the reader of this paper to have.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

it is important to disclose that I am the author of one of the two articles deemed of sufficient quality evaluating the impact of knowledge brokers.