Author’s response to reviews

Title: A Randomised Phase II Trial to Examine Feasibility of Standardised, Early Palliative (STEP) Care for Patients with Advanced Cancer and their Families [ACTRN12617000534381]: A Research Protocol

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Author’s response to reviews:

20th February 2019

Dr G. Lancaster,
The Editor,
Pilot and Feasibility Studies

Dear Dr Lancaster,

Re: A Randomised Phase II Trial to Examine Feasibility of Standardised, Early Palliative (STEP) Care for Patients with Advanced Cancer and their Families [ACTRN12617000534381]: A Research Protocol
Many thanks for considering this re-revised manuscript for publication in the journal, Pilot and Feasibility Studies.

I have responded to the reviewers’ comments as detailed below.

I wish to specifically thank the reviewers for what have been really great, and helpful reviews. In particular, our statistician on the study has welcomed the feedback.

Thank you for your further consideration of this work.

Yours Sincerely

Jennifer Philip

Prof. Jennifer Philip

University of Melbourne, Australia

Reviewer’s comments:

1. Planned analysis: As this is a feasibility study, statistical tests such as t-tests, chi-square, fishers exact etc should be avoided.
   a. We agree, and have removed this sentence (p13)

2. Power calculations are not appropriate for trials where feasibility is the primary outcome. Please address.
   a. Again, we agree and have removed the power calculation and related sentences. (p14).