

## **Reviewer's report**

**Title:** Depression and termination of pregnancy (induced abortion) in a national cohort of young Australian women: the confounding effect of women's experience of violence

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 12 February 2008

**Reviewer:** Zephne M. van der Spuy

### **Reviewer's report:**

First of all I think this is an extremely important subject and one which is central to the management of Women's Health. If partner violence is a more important determinant of depression than termination of pregnancy, it is an important finding.

The authors have revised the manuscript extensively and I think have improved it. Their ultimate finding is that about 30% of the young women surveyed scored as probably depressed and that partner abuse was associated with a problematic reproductive history.

The authors state very strongly that partner abuse should be taken into account when assessing depression associated with termination of pregnancy. They rightly state that depression contributes to the burden of disease among women and unfortunately this is very difficult to manage or prevent.

I think the paper has been substantially improved and the authors have tried to address Dr Fergusson's criticisms. Having said that there are some flaws in the design which cannot be altered and I would have thought that, given that Dr Fergusson rejected this manuscript originally, his input is very important. Undoubtedly this manuscript has much of merit and is of importance in the field of Reproductive Health. I think the authors have recognized, in their revised version, the major limitations of the study and I would suggest that in its present form it merits publication. Given his experience in this field, however, I would suggest that Dr Fergusson's input is solicited.