Reviewer’s report

Title: Heart failure among Indigenous Australians: a systematic review

Version: 1 Date: 29 July 2012

Reviewer: Leonard Kritharides

Reviewer’s report:

An important subject carefully reviewed.

Discretionary revisions:

1. Search strategy includes first 50 abstracts from Google Scholar. It is unclear if this identified material that was included in final analysis. If so, it seems hard to justify limitation to first 50- better to limit by further search and expand inclusion to all or remove this inclusion source.

2. Adjustments are made in results- eg for ascertainment bias in relation to indigenous status, but there are no methods provided for this analysis or adjustment. A formal statistical section is appropriate in Methods.

3. The abstract conclusion is out of keeping with content of results. While more data are clearly needed, a conclusion based on both results and the need for more data.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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