Reviewer's report

Title: Challenges and strategies for cohort retention and data collection in an Indigenous population: Australian Aboriginal Birth Cohort

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Reviewer: Kalyanaraman Kumaran

Reviewer's report:

This is an interesting paper providing an insight into the complex issues of maintaining a longitudinal cohort with good follow-up rates in challenging conditions. The findings are of relevance and interest to researchers engaged in longitudinal cohort studies, and although the findings may not be generalisable widely due to cultural/logistical differences (which the authors acknowledge), they offer ideas for approaches.

Minor essential revisions:

1. The initial birth cohort recruitment is just over 50% of those eligible. It would be useful to explain this further mentioning the reasons for a significant proportion not recruited. As the authors have been associated with this cohort for many years, it would be interesting to understand the rationale for recruiting 686 out of 1253 eligible participants. Is there likely to be a selection bias which may in turn also influence follow-up rates?

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.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare I have no competing interests below.