Reviewer’s report

Title: What core primary health care services should be available to Australians living in rural and remote communities?

Version: 3 Date: 23 June 2014

Reviewer: Karen Gardner

Reviewer’s report:

This paper uses a Delphi technique to ask what core PHC services and support functions should be provided to Australians living in rural and remote communities. The articulation of core primary health care services has significant policy implications and is topical at present.

Minor essential revisions
1. Although the methods clearly outline the Delphi technique employed in this study very limited information is provided about the methods by which the illustrative list of core services and support functions were put together. Given the policy implications of identifying a core list of primary health care services and the contentious nature of this task (the UK and NZ both decided against this course of action) I think it is essential to describe the process of developing this list and to more firmly situate this paper within that debate.

2. Related to this point, the Tilton report is referenced in the methods section but there is no discussion of the different approach taken in that report in the introduction to this paper.

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:
I declare I have no competing interests