Reviewer’s report

Title: Improving public health surveillance for human Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium infection: 3 years of prospective multiple-locus variable-number tandem-repeat analysis (MLVA)

Version: 2 Date: 13 February 2012

Reviewer: Tansy Peters

Reviewer’s report:

The revised manuscript presents a well written and interesting paper which improves our understanding of the dynamics of human S. Typhimurium infection in an Australian setting. The additional details provided by the authors have clarified any points raised by this reviewer. They make a number of valid points especially in relation to turn-around-times and the impact of prospective MLVA typing. It has been duly noted that two of the co-authors are field public health practitioners who have actively applied the information provided by MLVA typing from this study. It is important that MLVA results are now being accepted by the public health community in Australia (and globally) as indicators for public health intervention.

Major revision: None

Minor essential revision: please check that the wording of “re-emergence” has been changed to “reoccurrence” throughout the text.

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 that I have no competing interests

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.