Reviewer’s report

Title: The influence of psychosocial factors on the progression of chronic kidney disease: characteristics of pilot participants in the Tasmanian Chronic Kidney Disease cohort study

Version: 1 Date: 22 January 2013

Reviewer: Rachael Morton

Reviewer’s report:

This manuscript presents the methods and baseline results of the Tasmanian Chronic Kidney Disease cohort study.

The manuscript is well written and the study aims are important and novel. The paper could be improved with attention to the following:

1. The title is a bit misleading - as there is little data on the association between psychosocial factors and progression of CKD. Consider revising.
2. The sample size is small and renders some concerns about the power of the study to find any statistically significant associations between factors and progression of disease.
3. Please provide a rationale and or reference for the four chosen SEIFA categories (i.e high, medium-high, medium-low and low).
4. Household and individual income bands are a good measure of socio-economic status. Please state why this variable was not collected alongside education and employment status.
5. Which version of EQ-5D was used, the 3 level or 5 level?
6. Please report the baseline scores for EQ-5D in Table 2. Otherwise the Table title needs to be changed.
7. Please clarify how will the CKD progression outcome be measured? i.e. As a continuous variable with a decrease of eGFR or shift from stage 4 to stage 5 CKD?
8. A large meta-analysis of utility estimates in CKD found a mean utility of 0.80 in pre-treatment CKD patients. (See Wyld M et al 2012) http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001307. This reference should be added to the EQ-5D methods section on page 10.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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 that I have no competing interests