Reviewer's report

Title: Quality of maternal health care in Indigenous primary care services: a cross-sectional study

Version: 1 Date: 26 November 2010

Reviewer: Christine L Roberts

Reviewer's report:

This paper presents an audit of maternity care services in remote indigenous communities in Australia. Baseline data are reported from a review of maternal health records from 34 of 56 primary health care centres. The aim is clear and the methods appropriate and well described. Descriptive analyses are presented in 6 large tables. The paper is clearly written and will presumably form the basis of ongoing work in improving maternal health care for indigenous women. The main limitation of the study is that 22 centres chose not to participate in the audit, raising questions about the generalizability but this is covered well in the discussion. The authors report that some of the data have been previously published (page7, para 5, reference 25) but I cannot access this paper.

Discretionary revisions

The paper uses local geographical terminology that may not be accessible to an international audience. The authors could consider including a map.

Cover why 30 records were chosen as the sample size for each centre.

There is variation in the use of terminology around screening. Screening descriptions could be included in the methods (fetal anomaly screening, nuchal translucency, screening for NTDs. first trimester combined, 14-20 serum screening, morphology ultrasound (text), ultrasound 16-20 weeks (table)), especially as some do not appear to be standard eg 14-20 serum screening

The last line on page 14 appears to be a reference that should be in the reference list.

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 that I have no competing interests.