Reviewer's report

Title: Birth registration rates in New South Wales

Version: 1 Date: 21 August 2012

Reviewer: Waldemar (Wally) Carlo

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Major Compulsory Revision
The study by Xu et al reports that registration record was low with only 82.6% of the births registered the year of birth and only 94.39% by 5 years. The implication of birth registration data versus the Midwife Data Collection is not addressed. This should be addressed as the processes of registration may differ by country.

Minor Essential Revisions

Methods
The study population is births from 2001 to 2005. If available, a more recent cohort would be preferable.

Results
It is possible to shorten the first paragraph of the results by presenting only the data on non-duplicate and residents-only records. This would make the results clear.

The text of the Results section has too much repetition of data presented in the tables.

Discussion
It is unclear why the authors state that “Theoretically, all babies in the non-risk group in 2001 should have been registered.” The risk factors do not account for all non-registration. This sentence should be clarified.

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 have no competing interests.