Reviewer’s report

Title: The Acceptability and Feasibility of an Intercultural Birth Center in the Highlands of Chiapas, Mexico

Version: 2 Date: 16 October 2012

Reviewer: Lesley Barclay

Reviewer’s report:

1 Major Compulsory Revisions
I do not believe this paper requires major revisions.

2 Minor Essential Revisions
My first comment below could also sit under point 3 but do think this would help if it can be done.

It would be useful to have some idea of the causes of maternal mortality and serious morbidity and if TBAs have been associated with dangerous practices or deaths. This might have to be quoted from grey literature but it might help to contextualise the study.

It may be useful to have an editor help with the English language at times. Eg plural on p4 of ‘parteras’. It appears this is the plural form of the word from later text. It is very difficult working across languages. This study tackles 3 which is very challenging and it also makes qualitative work a little more complicated to use as quotes.

3 Discretionary Revisions
I would make more of two crucial points that are well developed in the analysis and discussion in the abstract. Firstly the discrepancy that exists between community and TBAs when identifying barriers to use of the service, there is no overlap at all. The second point is related and it's the absence of cultural collaboration, exchange, or respect from the health service towards cultural beliefs, capacity or sense that TBAs were colleagues.

This is an important contribution to understanding the failure of many professional, Western oriented services to be effective in different cultural contexts and with dispersed populations. It is a small study but useful, well constructed and thoughtful in the way it is designed and reported.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a
statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests or sources of funding outside my university salary and government awarded competitive grants in Australia.