Reviewer's report

Title: Who makes the cut? A comparison of rates of and reasons for caesarean section in England and Australia

Version: 1 Date: 21 February 2014

Reviewer: Deirdre Gartland

Reviewer's report:

Who makes the cut? A comparison of rates of and reasons for caesarean section in England and Australia.

The authors present a well written and interesting account of the reasons for, and rates of, caesareans in QLD, Australia versus England. It is an important area of inquiry as rates of caesareans continue to rise in Australia and a number of other developed countries, including for nulliparous women. Large data sets, complementary survey approaches and instruments in the two countries with similar health care systems present a wonderful opportunity for exploring their differing caesarean rates.

The abstract reflects the main findings. The literature review is comprehensive and informative, the method well described and the analyses are appropriate to the research question. The discussion and conclusions flow well but could benefit from being edited to decrease length so as to make the key findings more accessible.

Major compulsory Revisions:
None

Minor essential revisions:
None

Discretionary revisions:

Background
1. Line 51 reword: replace ‘though’ with ‘but’
2. Line 72 Sentence needs reworking – unclear in present form. Something like: The rate of increase of the prevalence of these factors in the birthing population is not sufficient to fully account for the rise in caesarean rates.

Results
1. Table 2 subscript - Would be more informative to provide some examples of what the other category included rather than what it excluded (it is obvious that it won’t include the ones already described in the table)
2. Would it be possible to add the Odds Ratios to Table 3? Easier to view them in a table rather than search for them through the text.
Discussion

1. Could be shortened to increase accessibility of the key messages.

**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 I have no competing interests