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: 4 March 2014

Reviewer: Lee Taylor

Reviewer’s report:

This is a very well written manuscript that addresses a topical issue and provides important evidence for the observed differences in caesarean section rates between two countries.

Major compulsory Revisions

1. Table 3 presents the core results of the study. The results of statistical comparisons (Odds Ratios and 95% confidence intervals) between groups should be presented in the table. The text accompanying this table is a bit lengthy. If the statistical comparisons are included in the table then the text could be somewhat shortened.

2. Tables 4 and 5 should present Odds Ratios and 95% confidence intervals (or p-values) for all comparisons. This may mean ordering the sections for ‘All women’, ‘No Previous Caesarean’ and ‘Previous Caesarean’ under each other and will make the tables longer, but would add substantially to the tables’ readability. As for Table 3, the text accompanying these tables is a bit lengthy. If the statistical comparisons are included in the table then the text could be presented in a more summarised form, focusing on the similarities and differences between the two countries, and reducing the text relating to a description of the pattern in each country.

Minor Essential Revisions

There is a typographical error at 398 of the manuscript – ‘…our findings are based on data reported by women’.

Discretionary Revisions

Nil.

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'