Reviewer's report

Title: Birthplace in New South Wales, Australia: an analysis of perinatal outcomes using routinely collected data

Version: 1 Date: 25 February 2014

Reviewer: Mary Stewart

Reviewer's report:

Thank you very much for sending me this paper to review. It is interesting, relevant and well written. The results are generally reassuring for women wanting to plan an out-of-hospital birth though, as the authors point out, numbers for planned home birth are so low that it is impossible to determine statistically significant differences.

The results generally mirror the findings of the Birthplace in England study. However, transfer rates in the Australia study were significantly lower and I hope that the authors of this paper will discuss this finding in more detail in a future paper.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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.