Reviewer’s report

Title: An evaluation of classification systems for stillbirth

Version: 2 Date: 25 September 2008

Reviewer: Stephen Robson

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript.

The difficulties in providing international comparisons, with particular reference to the issue of ‘unexplained’ stillbirth, are very well known. This is important, because a clear understanding of the epidemiology of stillbirth is very important if strategies for reducing the incidence are to be developed.

The newer classification systems for perinatal deaths (and the PSANZ-PDC is the system with which I am most familiar) have clear advantages of the older systems, such as Whitfield and Wigglesworth.

This study is a great idea, and I hope the dissemination of its results will facilitate development of a truly international system that will allow, for the first time, insightful and practical epidemiological comparisons across international boundaries.

Is the question posed by the authors well defined?

Yes

Are the methods appropriate and well described?

Yes

Are the data sound?

I believe so

Does the manuscript adhere to the relevant standards for reporting and data deposition?

Yes

Are the discussion and conclusions well balanced and adequately supported by the data?

Yes

Are limitations of the work clearly stated?

Yes
Do the authors clearly acknowledge any work upon which they are building, both published and unpublished?
Yes

Do the title and abstract accurately convey what has been found?
Is the writing acceptable?
Yes

Major Compulsory Revisions
None

Minor Essential Revisions
None

Discretionary Revisions
None

**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