Reviewer’s report

Title: Access to Eye Health Services among Indigenous Australians: an Area Level Analysis

Version: 10 Date: 2 August 2012

Reviewer: Ellen Freeman

Reviewer’s report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

Abstract: Please add that age was also accounted for in the methods.

Background: This sentence needs a reference: “The rate of low vision in Indigenous adults is 2.8 times rates in the general population and the rate of blindness 6.2 times higher than general population rates”.

Please spell out ACT at first use (end of inpatient section).

Please reference the SEIFA website.

The authors ignored my prior request to put a descriptive table for the percentage of Indigenous areas. This should be the first table of the paper. What are the age distributions, levels of remoteness, and SEIFA, for example, by percentage of Indigenous? I am concerned about the ability to properly adjust for remoteness if the areas with very high Indigenous populations are all remote.

I still find the discussion to be narrow. The authors should at least discuss how their results on eye health access fit with other research on health care access in indigenous populations of Australia.

I agree with the other reviewer that this statement should be removed or modified as it is not supported by the data from this study:

“These data suggest that this strategy may have reduced the gap in utilisation of services, although it certainly has not closed it”.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.