Author's response to reviews

Title: Recent patterns in chronic disease mortality in remote living Indigenous Australians

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We expanded discussion about the criticism of the ARIA classification of remoteness by giving examples in the Northern Territory (para 4 of Discussion). Both the abstract and the Conclusion were modified to de-emphasize the trends across the remoteness categories. We acknowledge that a better classification of remoteness is necessary.

The structure of manuscript was retained to show that the results observed in Queensland and the Northern Territory applied nationally. Furthermore, the limitations associated with the remoteness classification did not substantially alter the main message of declining mortality because the trend was observed regardless of the remoteness of residence.

The spelling of ‘Tennant Creek’ is now corrected.