Reviewer’s report

Title: Abdominal obesity largely explains the high CRP in Indigenous Australians relative to the general population, but not gender differences: a cross-sectional study

Version: 2 Date: 3 August 2010

Reviewer: Kathryn Rose

Reviewer’s report:

Most of the comments reflect minor essential revisions. More substantial concerns are preceded by **.

Abstract: the last sentence of the results section does not make sense as written (“between CPR and population”).

Introduction:
• 1st paragraph of intro: change “metabolic Syndrome” to “the metabolic syndrome.”
• Last sentence of intro: change ‘genders separately” to ‘men and women separately.”

Methods
• The newly added paragraph “In the absence of a sampling frame from which to select participants it is not possible to determine a true response rate, but it is estimated that about 14% of eligible people participated......older than the target population” should be simplified. Alternative suggestion. “A sampling frame was not available, but using available data we estimate that 14% of eligible persons participated”17 Further, a comparison with national????census data and data from the .........”
• add comma in between follow-up and attendees (end of paragraph 2 on page 2 of methods)

Results
** • The statement “Interactions between measures of obesity and sex were significant........” is not clear......and there is no table provided to help with the interpretation. Please clarify.

• When you describe results for table 2 and report on associations with continuous outcomes (e.g., blood pressure, HDL, etc), you need to report what the OR represents. For example is it just one unit increase in the value of the variable. Also, did you test for the normality of distribution of these continuous variables?
Discussion

*** You now include a sentence acknowledging that the AusDiab patricians were healthier than those who did not attend. However, it is important to speculate how this may alter/bias your findings.

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

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests