Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Aboriginal premature mortality within South Australia 1999-2006: a small area, cross-sectional analysis

**Version:** 1 **Date:** 21 February 2011

**Reviewer:** Yuejen Zhao

**Reviewer’s report:**

Title: Aboriginal premature mortality within South Australia 1999-2006: a small area, cross-sectional analysis

Minor Essential Revisions

- This paper describes South Australian premature mortality outcomes by Aboriginality and examines regional variation by socio-economic disadvantage and geographic remoteness. The issue is important and relevant to health policy. Research question is well defined. They have used existing data for this study
- This paper mainly described horizontal inequality of health by using indirect standardisation
- I will question the appropriateness of Chi-square test for analysing YLL
- I suggest the result section should start with a general description of the population
- There is no description of the method for calculating standard error for YLL
- Table 4 seems missing from the manuscript
- This paper tried to use the association between regional health statistics and socioeconomic measures to indicate individual level association between health, remote residence and socioeconomic status. The problem is that this may be caused by ecological fallacy, and should be addressed in discussion.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Needs some language corrections before being published

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

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests