Reviewer’s report

Title: Economic Impacts of Illness in Older Workers: Quantifying the impact of illness on income, tax revenue and government spending

Version: 1 Date: 23 December 2010

Reviewer: Silvia MAA Evers

Reviewer’s report:

This study highlights a relevant problem, the indirect economic impacts of illness related early retirement on individuals and government in Australia in 2009.

Major Compulsory Revisions

1) Improvement, the aim/research question could be stated more clearly, the term “indirect costs of illness”, as indirect costs relates often to productivity losses and costs of illness to health care costs and productivity losses. The aim of the study could be written down more clearly, eventually in a research question.

2) The model could be written down more transparent, an input table would be helpful to see were data are retrieved relating to Disability, Ageing, Carers, Income group, government payments, disability, chronic conditions, retirement, demographic variables.

3) Also the model features could be described in somewhat more detail.

4) This paper discusses intensively the relationship with the finding of other authors, but should clearly also discuss the limitations of the study/model.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests