Reviewer's report

Title: Colorectal cancer screening knowledge, attitudes and behavioural intention in Indigenous Western Australians

Version: 2 Date: 13 March 2012

Reviewer: Peter O'Rourke

Reviewer's report:

Major Compulsory Revisions

1. The authors have not responded adequately to Point 2 of Reviewer 1 and Points 12 and 15 of Reviewer 2. It is essential that they do respond adequately to these points before a decision can be made on the suitability of this manuscript for publication.

2. Clearly I do not have access to the data so I can only comment in generalities on the possible reasons for the major discrepancies in odds ratios between univariate and multivariate analyses in tables 5 and 6. It is most likely that there is ill conditioning across the cell numbers for the risk factors related to the outcome. Ill conditioning means close to a singularity caused by small cell numbers or factors which are very closely aligned on cell numbers. The consequences of this ill conditioning are large unstable odds ratios and very wide confidence bounds as seen in table 6. It would usually be one or two of the risk factors which cause this instability. A small number of individuals, perhaps with an unusual combination of risk factors, would be having high leverage in the analysis. The sample size is small with a maximum of 92 individuals and reducing to 84 for multivariate analyses. The two way tables of risk factors with each other need to be explored to check on corrupt or nearly corrupt distributions and for influential individuals. The odds ratios need to be explored for stability after deleting each of the risk factor in turn, as has been done for age and marital status in the revision. However it would be preferable to maintain a consistent data set of n=84 for these comparisons.

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.