Reviewer's report

**Title:** Socio-demographic factors and psychological distress in Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian adults aged 18-64 years: analysis of national survey data

**Version:** 1  **Date:** 7 September 2011

**Reviewer:** Noriko Cable

**Reviewer's report:**

Major compulsory revisions:
Background: Authors need to emphasize significance of the study. They stated their study population (Indigenous Australian) is at greater risk for psychiatric morbidity and mortality. Giving a figure for the proportion of this population and cost of health bills attributed by their mental illness would be helpful.

Method: Using 2004/5 data to predict current health status can be problematic. It is helpful to mention how the data are similar to the population profile so that all implications to health policy from the findings would be relevant.

Minor essential revision:
Stata v10. needs a citation.

A subheading will be useful to describe each study variable in the model.

In tables 2, 3, 4 some figures were bold. What is this for?

Discussion: Authors mentioned "racism" (pg25 line 4). I do not see any relevant findings from this study that the Indigenous Australians have been discriminated by their race.

Discretionary Revisions:
Discussion: Authors mentioned about relationships between mental and physical health. Data on chronic health condition were self-report, collected at the same time as other data. Authors also need to address this potential bias as limitation.

Authors could suggest policy interventions to promote psychological health of the Indigenous Australians have to be area specific.

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

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.
Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.