Reviewer’s report

Title: Traditional healers and the potential for collaboration with the national tuberculosis programme in Vanuatu: results from a mixed methods study

Version: 1  Date: 17 January 2014

Reviewer: kelly jones

Reviewer’s report:

No Major compulsory revisions.
This was overall a concise, well written and edited paper of public health importance.

Minor essential revisions:
1. The paper reports using a grounded theory approach to developing themes however the themes explored around issues of knowledge, practices and attitudes (the a posteriori inductive categories) which emerged are not evident or clearly described or used to report results. This needs addressing.

2. Addressing the small sample size as a limitation
As this is a mixed methods paper the small sample size is important to discuss as the authors have elected to present tables of descriptive data. It encourages the reader to wonder about possible regional differences between sites and attitudes regarding TB and referrals and possible future research exploring possible differences.

Discretionary revisions:
1. For ease of reading the authors may include in the introduction something about the desire to look at the possible collaboration with traditional healers and why. This is addressed somewhat in the the conclusion but needs addressing earlier.

2. A comment early about the paper not being about assessing the appropriateness of healers within a biomedical context but about using them as community collaborators in a culturally appropriate PH model may be prudent.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.