Reviewer's report

Title: Health Impact Assessment in New South Wales & Health in All Policies in South Australia: Differences, similarities and connections

Version: 1 Date: 19 June 2014

Reviewer: JM (Lea) den Broeder

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discretionary revisions:

1) It is not completely clear what data were exactly gathered, e.g. oral information or tacit knowledge of persons involved in the HIA cq HiAP centres, policy papers, annual reports, HIA or HiAP reports or other data. I’d love to read more about that as it may be an excellent example for evaluations of HIA/HiAP in other parts of the world.

2) The study was carried out by the persons that are also engaged in the work studied. This provides inside information and knowledge that outsiders would have had difficulty to access. However it might also create some blind spots for issues that outsiders might have identified, but that one doesn’t easily see, being themselves part of the system. Therefore the strategy of engaging a large international group as a sounding board was appropriate. Still this issue should have been addressed more explicitly in the paper.

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

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

Declaration of competing interests:

I am acquainted with some of the authors: we occasionally meet in international conferences or meetings in the field of HIA, e.g the International Association for Impact Assessment. However I have tried to read the paper as one would do who has no information about these authors.