Reviewer’s report

Title: Income-related inequalities in chronic conditions, physical functioning and psychological distress among older people in Australia: cross-sectional findings

Version: 2 Date: 28 May 2014

Reviewer: Lisa Lix

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have provided detailed responses to the previous reviews. The manuscript has been strengthened. However, there are a few additional revisions to make:

Major Compulsory Revisions

The Methods section indicates that the analyses are weighted by age, sex, and region of residence. Please provide information on the source of these weights.

The assessment of model fit should make it clear that the Poisson model was an appropriate choice, that is, that there was no over- or under-dispersion. This is not addressed in the current statement about model fit. The ratio of model deviance to degrees of freedom will be close to one if the Poisson distribution is an appropriate choice for the data. If the variance is larger than the mean, which is common in many analyses involving count data, then a negative binomial distribution would be considered.

In the Discussion section, the authors make the following statement: “The findings also reflect survival, as well as ‘reverse causality’.” It is important for the authors to acknowledge that they adjust for a limited set of covariates in their models and that residual confounding may be present in the data, which may account for some of the unexpected findings of the research.

Minor Essential Revisions

The Methods section requires a separate section entitled “Statistical Analysis” or something similar. As the manuscript is currently written, the Methods section only has sections for “Participants” and “Study Variables”. The analyses are inappropriately included in the latter section.

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.