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: 13 June 2014

Reviewer: Anton Kunst

Reviewer’s report:

The authors have carefully responded to my comments to the previous version of this paper. I have a only few comments to this new version.

1. As the particular value of this paper is related to the inclusion and distinction of those aged 80+ years, the abstract may pay greater attention to the results observed for this age group specifically.

2. On page 13, row 13-14, the sentence “The lower relative … people” might be deleted as I found it to be highly speculative.

3. Finally I would like to make a note that the author may or may not want to consider. A disadvantage of Prevalence Ratios is that their value strongly depends on how prevalence is defined: do you take the ‘unhealthy’ category (prevalence of ill health) or the ‘healthy category (prevalence of good health)? This is an arbitrary choice, but a choice that can greatly affects how the PR varies according to age. Even though I preferred the PR for a long time, in many situations I had to come to realise that the Odds Ratio had the advantage of not being dependent to this arbitrary choice.

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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