Reviewer's report

**Title:** Offending, custody and opioid substitution therapy treatment utilisation among opioid-dependent people in contact with the criminal justice system: Comparison of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

**Version:** 1  
**Date:** 4 June 2014

**Reviewer:** Wilson R Palacios

**Reviewer's report:**

The authors are commended for the exceptionally well-written manuscript submitted for review. The topic and writing style was engaging and the research objectives and outcomes very easy to follow. The authors use simple statistical analyses, although across three very impressive administrative data sets, to address four well-written specific aims. I did appreciate the description on each of these data sets employed along with the authors identifying both the conceptual and data limitations found in the present study. It was a joy reviewing this manuscript.

**Discretionary Revision:**

The authors essentially end the manuscript with a "more needs to be done for indigenous opioid-dependent Australians..." However if there have been recent efforts at reaching this population should this be introduced or are there ongoing efforts by the study team in doing so? If these efforts do exist perhaps it is not more should be done but rather more targeted efforts at working with indigenous opioid-dependent Australians. Perhaps the authors should consider emphasizing the fact that the needs of this special population warrant a specific culturally-sensitive intervention. While the authors do mention this in the form of a sentence or two perhaps they should consider a bit more narrative on this without violating the journal's page limitations, of course.

**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