Reviewer's report

Title: Socio-demographic factors associated with smoking and quit of smoking among 426,344 pregnant women in New South Wales, Australia

Version: 3  Date: 6 November 2005

Reviewer: Sarnia Carter

Reviewer's report:

General

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Major Compulsory Revisions (that the author must respond to before a decision on publication can be reached)

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Minor Essential Revisions (such as missing labels on figures, or the wrong use of a term, which the author can be trusted to correct)

The authors have incorporated most of the suggested changes into their revised manuscript or have addressed them in their covering letter. However, there are still a few minor instances where alterations would improve the manuscript:

1. Table 2 could be set out for easier reading with the removal of n/a and repeated values (leave n/a cells empty or signified by -)

2. Page 4 background could be improved by placing the Australian smoking situation in context along with figures described for Canada, the UK, and Finland. The authors say "Smoking in pregnancy remains prevalent in Australia" but do not provide any reference material to support this, and as such, one of the needs for conducting their study.

3. There are some grammatical errors to consider. Suggested changes include: page 2 (abstract) background section change 'identify to 'identifies'; page 2 (abstract) results section 'and' is typed twice; page 8 paragraph 2 'reported to be quit' requires rewording; page 9 paragraph 3 insert 'of' between '4%' and 'women' and change 'were in higher SES' to 'were of higher SES'. In the end of the same paragraph there are 2 commas; page 9 paragraph 4 remove capital 'A' from alcohol; table 3 'total number of women smoked' and '% of women quit smoking' requires rewording.

3. Most of the references have been formatted in the same style. However, there are some instances where either font size or use of italics differ. For example, References 6, 12, 20, 28, 44.

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Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests
Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests