Reviewer's report

Title: Assessing the Validity of Tuberculosis Surveillance Data in California

Version: 2 Date: 31 July 2006

Reviewer: David Durrheim

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed the major and minor revisions recommended.

They describe quality assurance of a legislated public health surveillance system that will be of interest to Public Health practitioners.

The use of a stratified random sample of cases for considering system quality is appropriate. The time-frame remains of concern though, as the cases sampled were notified almost a decade ago and are unlikely to represent current system performance. However readers will interpret this as a retrospective review.

The test performance measures selected and their application to the data will raise questions about the quality of the “gold standard” and additional measures could have been considered.

The manuscript is professionally prepared, succinct and generally well presented. The conclusions and recommendations are sound and rational, and generally supported by the data presented if surveillance system performance remains as it was nearly a decade ago. They represent what would be considered good practice in public health surveillance systems in developed countries.

What next?: Accept without revision

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests