Reviewer’s report

Title: Psychosocial and other Working Conditions in Relation to Body Mass Index in a Representative Sample of Australian Workers

Version: 5 Date: 30 November 2005

Reviewer: Johannes Siegrist

Reviewer’s report:

General
This manuscript has now been revised rather considerably. The Introduction contains a most updated review of the relevant state of the art, and it addresses the potential links between psychosocial stress at work and body mass index.

In the Methods section, missing information has been provided, in particular response rate from in-frame households and clarification of the scales measuring demand and control. As requested in my previous review, BMI has now been introduced as a continuous variable, using linear regression analysis.

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

In the Results section, results are briefly described. I was not sure whether authors described how they categorized 'high effort' and 'low reward' (probably not based on the ratio with this low prevalence). As there are significant effects, it might be of interest to add this information.

The Discussion section is appropriate as the major limitations of the study are clearly indicated.

In the text file, I did not see the Abstract. It would be important to mention in the Abstract that BMI information was obtained from respondents and not objectively assessed.

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

There are a few minor queries:

Page 6 and Table 2: Please write 'overcommitment' instead of 'commitment'

Page 4 please give correct spelling of names of authors: Bjorntorp - Kittel

References: Please comply with instructions for references (consistent abbreviations etc.)

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)

What next?: Accept after minor essential revisions

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.