Author's response to reviews

Title: The 2003 Australian Breast Health Survey: survey design and preliminary results

Authors:

Elmer V Villanueva (Elmer.Villanueva@med.monash.edu.au)
Sandra Jones (sandraj@uow.edu.au)
Caroline Nehill (Caroline.Nehill@nbcc.org.au)
Simone Favelle (skeane@uow.edu.au)
David Steel (dsteel@uow.edu.au)
Donald Iverson (iverson@uow.edu.au)
Helen Zorbas (Helen.Zorbas@nbcc.org.au)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript according to the suggestions of Professors Caplan and Paskett. We provide a point-by-point response in this cover letter.

We believe that their considered comments have improved the paper and thank them for their input.

Sincerely,

Elmer V Villanueva
on behalf of the Authors

**BMC Editorial Advice**

*Title and Abstract*

Action: We have reformatted the title to meet BMC standards.

*Ethics*

Action: Page 7, Paragraph 3: a statement about ethics has been added as required.

*Authors’ Contribution*

Action: Page 15, Paragraph 2: a statement has been added as required.

**Comments: Lee Caplan**

*Symptomatic women*

We have added statements to emphasise the difference in approaches to symptomatic and asymptomatic women as per Professor Caplan’s original statement. We have included a statement about the NBCC’s recommendations concerning the triple test.

Action: Page 13, Paragraph 1: emphasis added.

**Comments: Electra Paskett**

*Ovarian cancer*

We have deleted this statement

Action: Page 7, Paragraph 2: statement deleted as suggested.

*Response rate*

Action: Page 8, Paragraph 2: a response rate was added as suggested.

*Previous mammographic screening*

Action: Page 9, Paragraph 1: statement modified as suggested.
Screening history
Action: Page 9, Paragraph 2: results by screening history are presented as suggested.

Programs
Action: Page 12, Paragraph 1: examples of programs added as suggested.

Statement about rates
Action: Page 12, Paragraph 1: comments about the relationship of the rates found in the study with national targets have been added as suggested.

Accuracy of self-reports
Action: Page 13, Paragraph 2: properly referenced statements about self-reported information are provided as suggested.

Social desirability bias
Action: Page 13, Paragraph 2: techniques used to mitigate the effect have been added as suggested.

Copyediting errors
Action: Page 7, Paragraph 2: corrected as suggested.