Reviewer's report

Title: The 2003 Australian Breast Health Survey: Survey Design and Preliminary Results

Version: 2 Date: 10 August 2007

Reviewer: Electra Paskett

Reviewer's report:

General
The design of this study is interesting in that it provides a follow-up survey to assess changes in knowledge about mammographic screening since the previous survey in 1996. The sampling methodology is robust and a fairly large sample size is included. The results regarding knowledge of the Breast Screen program are positive and several areas for future interventions are identified. There are, however, significant weaknesses with the manuscript that are detailed below:

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

1) The main outcome of this study is the reported prevalence of “ever” received a mammogram. While of some use to health planners, this outcome is not scientifically valid any longer. A more correct, accepted, and relevant measure is “receipt of a mammogram in the last two years.” The analysis should be re-done with this outcome.

2) Women under age 40 are not routinely referred for mammograms. Thus, any calculation assessing receipt of mammography should remove women under age 40 from the sample.

3) Use of mammography was obtained by self-report. This limitation must be mentioned and further discussed in the manuscript.

4) (Page 7) Why were questions about ovarian cancer mentioned? They are not relevant to this manuscript and should be removed.


6) (Page 11, line 15) Is this age-eligible women interviewed, or all women interviewed?

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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)
1) (Page 4, line 2) Revise sentence to read “Breast cancer is the most common registerable cancer…”

2) (Page 5, line 14) Change “recently” to “recent.”

3) (Page 9, line 5) Change “here” to “there.”

4) (Page 11, line 16) Change “rate” to “rates.”

Discretionary Revisions (which the author can choose to ignore)
None

**What next?:** Unable to decide on acceptance or rejection until the authors have responded to the major compulsory revisions

**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.