Reviewer's report

Title: Can we assess public health systems capacity at the local level?

Version: 2 Date: 7 July 2009

Reviewer: Edward L Baker

Reviewer's report:

Major revisions: none

Minor revisions:

1. Many readers will need a better understanding of the governmental public health organizational structure in Australia. The authors should provide a bit of an explanation and indicate in what way their research is focused on local governmental agency infrastructure.

2. The authors should reference and discuss the US efforts to assess local health agency capacity as part of a national effort of health agency accreditation.

Discretionary revisions:

1. It would be interesting to know where the authors believe things should go from here on with respect to monitoring local public health system capacity in Australia.

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