Reviewer's report

Title: Oral health and obesity indicators

Version: 4 Date: 5 August 2012

Reviewer: Bernadette Drummond

Reviewer's report:

Overall Comment
This paper reports information on a very important area - that of the impact and relationships of oral health on general health. Thus it is really important that the authors clearly explain how oral health was measured. This is almost totally overlooked in the paper so that the reader has no real detail of what was measured or recorded. It is therefore difficult to understand the results or to agree or disagree with the discussion.

The paper is written well and the tables are well described. The references are appropriate.

Major Compulsory Revisions
Who carried out the oral examinations?
Under what conditions were the examinations carried out?
How was dental caries determined - what indices were used?
How was the periodontal health determined?
Were posterior bitewing radiographs taken?
What conditions were recored in the oral mucosa?
Was there any effort made to determine why the teeth were lost? There is some suggestion in the discussion that this was due to periodontal disease but there are no results to suggest this.
What was the panoramic radiograph used for?
How was xerostomia determined?

The authors might like to consider the findings in relation to restored teeth and unrestored teeth. Given the age group, the current caries rate would not be expected to be very high. It is curious that more restorations was related to lower obesity. Perhaps this is because the restorations might have been quite old and the teeth with more severe decay had been removed. It would be good if the authors could investigate and report these relationships in more detail.

A further question relates to the timing of the introduction of fluoride use in these women. The younger women would be expected to have had more protection from fluoride even if the had a tendency to obesity.
Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

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