Reviewer's report:

Title: An examination of the health and wellbeing of childless women: A cross-sectional exploratory study in Victoria, Australia

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Reviewer: William Yates

This manuscript presents the results of a study of health and well-being in a group of women without children in Australia. Childless women in the sample self-reported lower general health, vitality, social functioning and mental health compared to a control group of women. The authors note their study supports more research to address the health and social services need in this population. This study addresses an important issue. The authors can strengthen their manuscript by addressing the following issues:

1. It would be helpful to determine the exact nature of the childlessness of this population. The authors note the sample is biased by high academic performance. Do the authors know how many of the sample are childless by choice? How many of the sample would meet criteria for infertility, i.e. one year of unprotected intercourse? One might expect different health and mental health between women childless by choice compared to those who are unable to conceive.

2. The authors note that the cross-sectional design of their study does not allow them to make comments about causality. But one interesting finding is the impaired social functioning psychometric and what seems like a relative large percentage of women in the sample not married and not in a relationship (32%). Do the authors know whether this represents a higher percentage that that found in the general population? If so, one could speculate that primary poor social function might contribute to lack of successful partnering contributing to the childless state.

3. The reference section could be updated by considering and incorporating the following recent publications relevant to the authors research.


**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