Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Assessing cardiovascular risk in regional areas: The Healthy Hearts - Beyond City Limits program

**Version:** 2  **Date:** 20 June 2012

**Reviewer:** Aage Tverdal

**Reviewer’s report:**

The authors have answered adequately to the points that were raised.

The authors state that the study was not designed to capture a representative population sample. Still they conclude that "High CVD risk factor levels were confirmed for regional Victoria". Perhaps they should exchange "regional Victoria" with "this self-selected sample".

The risk factor levels vary between the regions. For instance, the percentage with elevated LDL cholesterol vary between 63% and 85% in men. The highest percentage was in the region with the lowest percentage aged over 55 years. Accounting for age would have widened the difference. This pattern of differences across regions applies to many of the risk factors. This points in the direction of a more balanced conclusion than confirmed high CVD risk factors for all the regions combined.

**Level of interest:** An article of limited interest

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I have no competing interests