Reviewer's report

**Title:** The availability, spatial accessibility, service utilisation and retrieval cost of paediatric intensive care services for children in rural, regional and remote Queensland: study protocol.

**Version:** 2 **Date:** 15 January 2013

**Reviewer:** warwick butt

**Reviewer's report:**

Interesting and well designed study that has ethics approval, from both HREC's. In designing this study, consideration of patient outcome (both survival and long term quality) should be carefully documented. The balance between the urgent care for a few patients and the requirement of sufficient volume for maintenance of "centers of excellence" should be carefully considered. The data obtained is likely to be important in future planning of health services for the region in which the study is performed.

**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 declare I have no competing interests