Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between access to primary care and hospitalisations: Evidence from linked clinic and hospital data for remote Indigenous Australians

Version: 1 Date: 25 July 2013

Reviewer: Sabine Pircher

Reviewer's report:

MAJOR COMPULSORY REVISIONS
No major compulsory revisions.

MINOR ESSENTIAL REVISIONS
1. The article is entitled: “The relationship between access to primary care and hospitalisations …”. While access to Primary Health Care is being addressed in the Discussion the main focus of the article seems to be the relationship between the number of PHC visits and hospitalisations. I suggest changing the title to “The relationship between number of primary health care visits and hospitalisations …” or something similar.

2. I suggest choosing either American or British spelling throughout the article
   page 8, 2nd paragraph - “minimized”
   page 12, 1st paragraph - “generalized”

3. [Results – last paragraph]
   I believe that it should say “(Insert table 3 and figure 2 here)”.

4. [Discussion]
   The authors mention that the current level of access to PHC for Indigenous residents in remote areas is inadequate compared with the national average. I believe that the authors should elaborate more on this and also mention the importance of culturally appropriate services.

5. [Discussion]
   I suggest adding the heading “Limitations” to the last paragraph.

6. [Conclusion]
   I believe that it should say “…and support an argument that remote Indigenous people …” instead of “…and support am argument that remote Indigenous people …”.

7. Figure 1 and Figure 2 are missing a title.

DISCRETIONARY REVISIONS
1. Overall, I would suggest using either “hospital admissions” or “hospitalisations” throughout the article.

**Level of interest:** An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.

However, I note that there is a limited pre-existing relationship in that I was employed within the Northern Territory Department of Health, Health Gains Planning Unit between February 2007 and January 2011.