Author's response to reviews

Title: Costs of medicines and health care: a concern for Australian women across the ages

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Author's response to reviews:

Dr Louisa Gordon,
Section Editor
BMC Health Services Research

Dear Dr Gordon,

Please find attached a further revised copy of our manuscript “Costs of medicines and health care: a concern for Australian women across the ages” for publication as a research article in BMC Health Services Research.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the reviewer’s comments and revise our manuscript.

Reviewer 1 comments (Ian Stewart McRae):

1. Discretionary revisions

I note that although, as requested by the editor, the aims of the paper have been clarified in the body of the paper they have not been clarified in the abstract. While the authors have significantly clarified the issues around the trends in bulk billing, both the conclusion to the abstract and the beginning of the discussion refer to "decreasing number of bulk-billing practices". In the light of the broader discussion, the authors should consider referring to difficulty in access to bulk billing practices for some patients or some similar words in these two contexts.

The aims of the study have been added to the abstract. Some further minor edits have also been implemented to comply with the required abstract word limit of 350 words.

In the abstract, and in the first paragraph of the conclusion, “decreasing numbers of bulk-billing practices” has been changed to “difficulty in accessing bulk-billing services”.

We again thank you for the opportunity to revise and re-submit this paper, and
look forward to hearing from you regarding this manuscript.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Walkom.