Reviewer’s report

Title: Factors influencing health care utilisation among Aboriginal cardiac patients in central Australia: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 14 October 2012

Reviewer: Jeffrey Fuller

Reviewer’s report:

The revision is a more comprehensive paper and now relates the findings from this study to a larger body of literature.

COMPULSORY REVISIONS

I still find that the framework somewhat underdeveloped.

1. Part of this may be that it is incomplete, by which I mean that there is not sufficient data or analysis within the limitations of one study to so develop a complete culturally sensitive framework for HCU. Let me illustrate. If the matrix were set up in rows (which it is not yet) then we would see, for example, that there are no findings for the interpersonal domain other than enablers. Does this mean that the framework implies that there are no predisposing interpersonal factors etc. Surely not. If the authors accept this, then perhaps they could explain their framework as a “work under construction”.

2. The other problem I think is that almost all the enablers illustrated are inhibitors – that is they are factors that make it difficult for Aboriginal people to make use of health care, rather than assist. Likewise the reinforcers are “non-reinforcers”. I accept that the flip side of “limited communication with the hospital system” – that is if there were communication – could be an enabler, but that is not what you have.

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:

No conflict of interest