Reviewer’s report

Title: Evaluating the impact of equity focused health impact assessment on health service planning: Three case studies

Version: 1 Date: 22 April 2014

Reviewer: Ingrid Tyler

Reviewer’s report:

This is an excellent and important paper using a case study methodology to examine the impact of three completed EFHIAs and refine an existing evaluation framework.

COMPULSORY
I do not have any compulsory revisions to suggest at this time. The paper is well written, organized and carefully considered.

ESSENTIAL
In the introductory section it should be made clearer when an individual would want to embark upon an HIA vs. and EFHIA - the distinction between the 2 assessments is not crystal. I would suggest a section heading that addresses this issue for those not already familiar with these tools.

DISCRETIONARY
It would be helpful to contextualize EFHIA in relation to other health equity assessment tools for an international audience. Is the framework being assessed applicable to HEAT or HEIA??

Level of interest: An article of outstanding merit and interest 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:
'I declare that I have no competing interests’