Reviewer's report

Title: Physical inactivity as a policy problem: Applying a concept from policy analysis to a public health issue

Version: 2 Date: 10 January 2013

Reviewer: Deborah Gleeson

Reviewer's report:

Minor essential revisions

The authors have reframed the policy problem as 'physical inactivity' which works well. The paper is now much tighter conceptually than the earlier version. However there are two points that need to be worded slightly differently to fit this new conceptualisation of the problem. These are points (4) and (6) in the summary of the analysis which appears in both the abstract (p. 2) and the conclusions (p. 18).

Now that the policy problem is defined as physical inactivity, (4) 'is sometimes difficult to "sell" to the public when its benefits are not highly divisible' should be re-worded to something along the lines of 'is addressed through interventions that can be difficult to "sell" to the public when their benefits are not highly divisible'. (6) 'addresses a broad scope of activities' should be changed to 'must be addressed through a broad scope of activities' or similar.

These points are well explained and elaborated in the body of the paper and it is only the wording in the summary in the abstract and conclusion which needs to be aligned with the new conceptualisation of the problem.

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:

I declare that I have no competing interests.