Author's response to reviews

Title: Patterns of multimorbidity in working Australians

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Response to Editors requests for additional revisions:

Regarding: MS: 1989033273473542
Patterns of multi-morbidity in working Australians
Libby Holden, Paul A Scuffham Prof, Michael Hilton Dr, Alexander Muspratt, Angus Ng and Harvey A Whiteford Prof

Dear Ms Holden,

Thank you for submitting your revised manuscript, which has now been reviewed by the handling editor.

We believe the paper has improved with the revisions you have made. However, we would like to request some additional minor revisions. The handling editor would like to see a revision to the abstract so that the results offer more specific information on the findings, which are now rather vague.

The results section of the abstract has been changed (and edits shown in track changes in the manuscript) to read as follows:

“Six clinically meaningful clusters of multi-morbid health conditions were identified. These were: factor 1: arthritis, osteoporosis, other chronic pain, bladder problems, and irritable bowel; factor 2: asthma, COPD, and allergies; factor 3: back/neck pain, migraine, other chronic pain, and arthritis; factor 4: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, obesity, diabetes, and fatigue; factor 5: CVD, diabetes, fatigue, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis; and factor 6: irritable bowel, ulcer, heartburn, other chronic pain. These clusters do not fall neatly into organ or body systems; with and some conditions appear in more than one cluster.”

We have placed your paper on the agenda for discussion and a vote by the editorial team later this week, but in the meantime, we are hoping you could provide the requested revisions as well as an accompanying cover letter giving your response to the concerns.
Please highlight (with 'tracked changes'/coloured/underlines/highlighted text) all changes made when revising the manuscript to make it easier for the Editors to give you a prompt decision on your manuscript.

Additional edits made to those done in response to edits requests were to fix a section on page five that had a smaller font size – the last paragraph of the Background section) and a typo on page 6 where organisation was spelled incorrectly.

Finally, please ensure that your revised manuscript conforms to the journal style (http://www.pophealthmetrics.com/info/instructions/). It is important that your files are correctly formatted.

We have removed commas from numerical values in table 1 and have added a list of abbreviations, author contributions, and author information in the order required under ‘manuscript sections for research articles’. If there are any other formatting issues we have overlooked please let us know, but to the best of our knowledge this manuscript complies with the Instructions for Population Health Metrics Authors.

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript by 23 March 2011. If you imagine that it will take longer to prepare please give us some estimate of when we can expect it.

Revised manuscripts to by submitted by 23rd March

Thank you for considering our manuscript for publication in your journal.

Kind regards,

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