Reviewer’s report

**Title:** Human papillomavirus prevalence amongst Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australian women prior to a national HPV vaccination program

**Version:** 4  **Date:** 10 June 2011

**Reviewer:** Robert Burk

**Reviewer’s report:**

The investigators have provided an improved revised manuscript. However some questions still remain.

**Major:**

The section on HPV testing needs to state the QC practices and how contamination was evaluated. Importantly, what was the agreement between Amplicor and Linear Array, for positive/negative and by type?

Table 2. It would be preferable to present the actual data. The Population standardized prevalences for indigenous women should be a separate or supplemental table.

Table 3a should be deleted, as the data is contained in Table 3b.

It appears that the indigenous women have a U-shaped curve of HPV prevalence that is seen in other populations. The investigators should note and comment on this.

**Minor:**

Table 5. P-values are not necessary, since confidence intervals are provided.

Please define “Victorian” women.

**Discretionary:**

It was disappointing that the authors are not presenting the association of HPV and cervical pathology in this manuscript.

**Quality of written English:** Acceptable

**Statistical review:** Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests