Reviewer's report

Title: Ladies in Waiting: The timeliness of first trimester termination of pregnancy services in New Zealand

Version: 1 Date: 6 May 2010

Reviewer: Anibal Faúndes

Reviewer's report:

Introduction:
The introduction is unnecessary long. Sometimes appear to be a review and other times discussion.

2nd paragraph: It will be enough to say the in countries such as USA and Demark it has been shown that clinical complication and abortion related mortality increase in parallel with age, particularly after 12 weeks of pregnancy (with the correspondent references). Then, say which are the rules in the UK.

3rd paragraph (page 3 and 4): only the first sentence in two lines correspond to introduction. The rest may go to discussion or be deleted.

Method:
1st paragraph, page 5: State why 4 clinics declined participation. How they were different from the other 9.

4th line: Something is missing: between 1st and ... April 30th. As in the Discussion 3 months are mentioned it should be February 1st

Last paragraph: results related to the question on out of pocket expenses, partner support, friend and family support, barriers and facilitators to accessing the services are not included in the paper.

Results:
2nd paragraph: unnecessary repetition of the data on table 1.

“Nearly half of the women had children” : Not in the table.

3rd. paragraph (bottom page 7): “34,7% between 8th and 9th week of pregnancy. The majority ...... after the 10th week.” Where is the 10th week? Not in the first neither in the second group.

Page 9, 3rd paragraph: This result merits a comment in the Discussion with reference to women awareness or lack awareness of the increased risk with greater gestational age.

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.