Author's response to reviews

Title: A Systematic Review Protocol: Social Network Analysis of Tobacco Use

Authors:

Raglan Maddox (raglan.maddox@canberra.edu.au)
Rachel Davey (Rachel.Davey@canberra.edu.au)
Ray Lovett (Ray.Lovett@aiatsis.gov.au)
Anke van der Sterren (ankevds@unimelb.edu.au)
Joan Corbett (Joan.Corbett@canberra.edu.au)
Tom Cochrane (Tom.Cochrane@canberra.edu.au)

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dear Editors

Thank you for the reviewer comments which have been addressed in track changes and significantly strengthened this systematic review protocol. The comments have been addressed as follows:

- **PROSPERO Registry**: An acknowledgement has been included in the Methods section, noting the review has not been registered with PROSPERO as it does not meet the eligibility criteria.
- **Abstract**: the Abstract has been included in the Manuscript as requested.
- **Background**: a sentence defining ‘social network analysis’ has been incorporated in the first paragraph.
- **Research questions**: three key research questions have been included and refined based on the PICO framework.
- **Methods and design**: ‘and design’ has been removed and the ‘Methods’ restructured, incorporating the headings: Criteria for considering studies, Study design, Population, Intervention/exposure, and Outcomes.
- **Search strategy**: key words and dates have been included in the Search strategy section as suggested.
- **Data extraction**: Social network analysis’ methodology has been specified in the Data extraction section.
- **Quality assessment and risk of bias**: we have removed the statement “and exclude studies with few protections against bias.” as suggested.
- **Analysis**: The analysis has been expanded to include greater detail, noting meta-analysis will not be undertaken in this instance and the steps for narrative synthesis which aligns with Popay et al. (2006) in the *Guidance on the conduct of narrative synthesis in systematic reviews.*
- **Discussion**: Strengths of the systematic review have been detailed in the Discussion section, and also comprises a sub-section on Limitations.
We would be grateful if you would consider our revised manuscript for publication. As detailed in the initial submission, the Systematic Review Protocol: Social Network Analysis of Tobacco Use has been the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Health Directorate’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy Advisory Group and forms part of the Smoke Ring Study. This research is funded externally through a PhD Scholarship from the ACT Government.

Our manuscript has not been published nor is it currently being considered for publication elsewhere. All authors have contributed substantially to the conception, design and delivery of this protocol, and drafting of the manuscript.

All authors have read and agreed to this submission and all authors declare that they have no competing interests.

Yours sincerely,

Raglan Maddox  
Ba Sci (Health Promotion), MPH  
PhD Candidate  
Centre for Research and Action in Public Health, Faculty of Health  
T +61 402 377 303  
E raglan.maddox@canberra.edu.au