Reviewer’s report

Title: Using data linkage to enhance the reporting of cancer outcomes in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in NSW, Australia

Version: 0 Date: 09 Apr 2019

Reviewer: Katharina Merollini

Reviewer's report:

Dear authors,

I reviewed your interesting article on enhancing methods for reporting of cancer incidence among Aboriginal people and think it is nearly ready for publication. Here a few minor comments to improve the clarity of your results and to emphasise the significance of your research findings.

- Abstract:

'Conclusions' in abstract should include that 'weight of evidence method' was found most suitable for future analyses of cancer outcomes of Aboriginal people. This may help the reader to select a method of enhancement for their own research.

Results:

- [Table 3, Figure 1]: make clear in the text that Figure 1 is an illustration of Table 3 and refers to the same data.

Discussion:

- typos on p.8, line 6/7: correct to 'the incidence of cervical cancer may be due to ..... but may also be due to other factors..
- p.8, second paragraph: finding that after enhancement results indicated high breast and prostate cancer incidence among Aboriginal than non-Aboriginal people in NSW; This is a major finding and you could explore the possible impact of under-reporting more. E.g. prevention programs might currently not be targeting Aboriginal people as much as they should; we might currently not be aware of the full extent of cancer incidence in Aboriginal people (melanoma, breast, prostate cancer); what does that mean for Australia/ public health programs? More funding necessary to help reduce risk in high risk groups. More targeted interventions / research warranted;
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Does the work include the necessary controls?
If not, please specify which controls are required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are the conclusions drawn adequately supported by the data shown?
If not, please explain in your comments to the authors.

Yes

Are you able to assess any statistics in the manuscript or would you recommend an additional statistical review?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

Quality of written English
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

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