Author's response to reviews

Title: Rainfall and sentinel chicken seroconversions predict human cases of Murray Valley encephalitis in the north of Western Australia.

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Author's response to reviews: see over
The Editor  
BMC Infectious Diseases  

Re: manuscript entitled: ‘Rainfall and sentinel chicken seroconversions predict human cases of Murray Valley encephalitis in the north of Western Australia.’

Dear Editor,

Thank you for the opportunity to make changes to the above document with view to publication in BMC Infectious Diseases.

In this letter we would like to respond to the following request:
“However before we proceed could you add the following information to your methods section:

* Details of the ethical approval for collection of the human data (with name of ethics committee as appropriate)
* Details of the informed consent sought from patients for inclusion on the study.”

Murray Valley encephalitis is a Notifiable disease in WA, and this study involved using data acquired through routine follow up. Further analysis of the data as was performed in this study forms part of the investigation of a Notifiable disease and as such neither Human Research Ethics Committee approval or patient consent were necessary. We have inserted this text into the methods section, and hope that this is satisfactory.

I have formatted the document according to the guidelines with the exception of fitting the tables as A4 Portrait. I had great difficulty in doing this for table 1 so have left the table in Landscape.

Regards

Linda Selvey