Reviewer's report

Title: A high rate of histological chorioamnionitis is associated with rural and remote residence in the Northern Territory, Australia: A cross-sectional study.

Version: 3  Date: 11 November 2014

Reviewer: Wendy Hoy

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I would add more comment about the probable significance of the association of placental inflammation with gestational period (the important association with preterm birth, and then the association with post maturity).

The lack of significance of association with Aboriginality after accounting for remoteness is very cheering: it brings greater hope for a faster turn around of the poor maternal and infant stats in the Indigenous population through emphases on addressing the SE disadvantage associated with remoteness. This in turn will ameliorate the chronic disease excess in adult life that follows these persisting “poor starts to life”.

I have a few minor editorial comments, as follows:
1. P 6, line 14. "In"... the report. Also put reference to that report (ref7) close to the comment
2. p 8, line 1. Comma after "antibiotic resistance"
3. p 8, line 9. Only approx one third of Indigenous Australians live in remote or very remote areas
4. p 8, line 11. .. the lower SES impacts on (delete "due to")
5. p8, line 20: comma before "poorer outcomes"
6. p9, line 5: "Ethics committee review and approval...."
7. p9, line 15: after "their" consideration
8. p12, lines 16-22. Adding "A" (A metropolitan, a rural) etc seems to soften it.
9. p13. Sure, NSW has the largest Aboriginal populations, but only a few are remote: I am not sure I would emphasise the NSW population size alone as evidence that it is a good comparator.
10. p13. line 14. ? "The required or minimal sample size... "
11. p 16, line 9. Would use past tense... and throughout the manuscript I would unify tense: probably past tense is tidier,
12. p 18, line 15. One less cord sample???
13 p 21, line23. Does smoking contribute to anaemia? or do you mean, smoking like anaemia, is one of the risk factors?
14. p 22, line 14 "remained significant risk factors"
15. p 37, line3. ? at the extremes of gestation period rather than extremities? There are two copies of the second bar graph.