Reviewer's report

Title: Occupational class differences in suicide: Evidence of changes over time and during the Global Financial Crisis in Australia.

Version: 3
Date: 23 June 2015

Reviewer: Myoung-Hee Kim

Reviewer's report:

I carefully looked into the revised paper, and found that my suggestion and question was not fully answered by the authors.

Minor Essential Revisions (all three points)

1. Although the term ‘occupational skill level’ was changed in the title, it was still used in the main text. It would be better to maintain consistency except for the case that it has any specific meaning with regard to the cited references (pp 6, line 28th; pp9, line 23rd-24th; pp9, line 27th).

2. The authors proposed the hypothesis that the gender modified the effect of financial crisis on suicides. And the result seems to support such hypothesis. However, the authors still did not provide adequate explanation why the effects on suicides differed between men and women in some occupations. If the statement “However, the small number of suicides occurring in females means that these results were unreliable” (pp 8, line 34th) is accepted, then the further analysis and interpretation based on such findings would be futile.

3. I suggested that some empirical data to show the Australian context would be helpful for readers (e.g. national statistics about income inequality or changes in poverty rate or unemployment rate by occupational class and gender at that time). I think that my suggestion is still valid; for example, the ‘demotion hypothesis’ (pp9, line 31st,) could be easily supported or refuted by looking into labor statistics or sociology/economics papers.

(end)

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:
I declare that I have no competing interests.