Reviewer's report

Title: A telephone survey of factors affecting willingness to participate in health research surveys

Version: 2 Date: 18 June 2015

Reviewer: Kristen Malecki

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Major Compulsory Revisions

Overall, I feel this paper still lacks detail in background and methods sections regarding the description of cohorts and target populations for this study which I feel limits its impact and contribution to the field. Also, authors do not include a lot of detail on how findings are at all novel or unique and or the significance of this work, some additional statements on the gap being addressed by this work in Australia and how findings will be used by the research team could really strengthen this paper.

Lines 78-79 – Here is a place in the methods where overall comments could be addressed more directly. For example in lines pg. 90-94 – what were the goals of the cohort? Why did participants originally participate and how were they selected, some of this context is important for interpreting the results.

Lines 161-168 – It needs to be made more clear that the paper is looking at future willingness to participate among past cohort and case-control studies.

Paragraph 211-235 needs revisions for clarity, the newly added paragraphs need revision for clarity, hard to see what authors are saying.

Discussion - here would be a place to discuss more directly how these results will be used in future research, or despite the findings being similar to other findings, why this study is particularly important for addressing issues related to survey participation.

Level of interest: An article of limited interest

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests.