Reviewer’s report

Title: Labour force participation and the cost of lost productivity due to cancer in Australia

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Reviewer: Anna Gavin

Reviewer's report:

An interesting paper which should add to this currently neglected area,

Few thoughts regarding the dataset used- there should be some inclusion of the response rate and any biases to the 2015 Survey of Disability, Ageing and Carers which could possibly have been more likely to be completed by those with a disability.

How is the workforce in total distributed between men and women, a decreasing proportion of women would never have worked and this is more common among older women who due to age are more likely to have cancer, comment should be made regarding this fact

There does not seem to have been any account taken of those who retire with a good pension out of choice due to a change in priorities after a health scare, this should at least be included in the discussion. Is there any way of measuring this?

The conclusions are justified, but the loss to GDP is only one aspect of this as there is likely an impact on general wellbeing and comment should be made of this to pave he way for further studies,

I agree with the authors that the type of cancer is likely to have a big impact, eg skin cancer which is very common in Australia should have minimum impact on return to work, therefore the impact of other more serious cancers could be higher. this should be included in the discussion

Minor comment In the abstract "Data was limited to people aged 25 to 64 years" - the word data is pleural of datum and so should be followed by 'were' and not 'was'
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Unable to assess

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?
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I recommend additional statistical review

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