Reviewer’s report

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

Version: 1 Date: 02 Jan 2018

Reviewer: Brendan Walsh

Reviewer's report:

Considerable improvements have been made in this revised manuscript. Many of the concerns I had related to lack of detail provided and the authors have responded to most of these concerns. The detail provided makes the manuscript much more transparent and informative for the reader.

Table 2 and Table 4 should state that the numbers included are weighted numbers and do not reflect the actual numbers within the survey. While I agree that weighted data is a better representation of the population, providing weighted population numbers in the tables rather than weighted estimates, is not necessary in my opinion.

I was incorrect in my previous point on confidence intervals around the Odds Ratios.

The authors now provide information on the categorical variable used when estimating the concentration indices.

While non-melanoma skin cancer is the most common cancer diagnosed in Australia, it is very different to other forms of cancer, particularly in terms of the treatment (if any) is required. On page 5 the inclusion of the following sentence is helpful: "the types of cancer were grouped into: skin cancer (ICD C43-44), breast cancer (ICD C50), prostate cancer (C61), bowel/colorectal cancers (C18-21) and any other neoplasm (including benign tumours)." I think it would be of value to the reader for the numbers of survey participants in each group to be provided, specifically what proportion of the cancer groups have/had a benign tumour. As referenced by the other reviewer, skin cancer may have minimum impact on return to work. In a comment to reviewer 3 the authors acknowledge that the sample size of individual cancer types is relatively small. Do results differ significantly with and without the inclusion of benign cancers? I think it's important for the reader to understand if it is benign cancers that are driving these results.

Reference to international studies has now been made.
Are the methods appropriate and well described?
If not, please specify what is required in your comments to the authors.

Yes

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?
If an additional statistical review is recommended, please specify what aspects require further assessment in your comments to the editors.

I am able to assess the statistics

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