**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** A study of macro-, meso- and micro-barriers and enablers affecting extended scopes of practice: the case of rural nurse practitioners in Australia

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 22 Feb 2018

**Reviewer:** Bryan McIntosh

**Reviewer's report:**

This is a timely and interesting contribution to the literature. I only have one criticism, this is that the discussion and conclusion sections are perfunctionary. I would have liked to have heard more about what kind of policies the authors would like to have seen implemented and the potential of these policies in addressing the problem as outlined. This would add to the discourse.

**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.

Not relevant to this manuscript

**Quality of written English**  
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable
Declaration of competing interests
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?

If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

n/a

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal