Author's response to reviews

Title: Tobacco smoking and all-cause mortality in a large Australian cohort study: findings from a mature epidemic with current low smoking prevalence

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Author's response to reviews: see over
Dr Lin Lee  
Senior Editor  
*BMC Medicine*

20 January 2015

Dear Lin,

**Re: Tobacco smoking and all-cause mortality in a large Australian cohort study: findings from a mature epidemic with current low smoking prevalence**

It was great to get the positive feedback from the reviewers in response to our revised paper. Please find attached our response to the final reviewer comment and a revised paper for your consideration.

We very much hope you will now find our paper suitable for publication in *BMC Medicine*. Please do not hesitate to contact me at emily.banks@anu.edu.au or +61 2 6125 0328 if you require anything further.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Professor Emily Banks, Professor Alan Lopez on behalf of the authors
RESPONSE TO REVIEWERS’ COMMENTS

REVIEWER ONE

MAJOR
1.1 Whether high blood pressure and dyslipidaemia are intermediate factors on the causal chain between cigarette smoking and cardiovascular death or whether they are confounders that should be taken into account can be discussed. I cannot see that the authors’ argument for not adjusting for blood pressure and lipids is incorporated in the revised version.

In order to address the reviewers’ comments we have added the following to the methods section (page 7) of the paper:

“Hypertension and dyslipidaemia were considered likely to be part of the causal pathway between smoking and mortality and were not adjusted for.”