Reviewer’s report

Title: Mortality trends in Australian Aboriginal peoples and New Zealand Māori

Version: 1 Date: 24 Apr 2017

Reviewer: Martin Tobias

Reviewer's report:

The authors have adequately addressed the points made by all peer reviewers, including:

More detail has been provided about data sources

Justification has been provided for comparing indigenous to total for Australia

Conclusion has been amended so that mortality gaps are not attributed solely to economic inequalities

Lack of quantification of uncertainty has been acknowledged and justified in the Discussion

More information has been provided on relative as well as absolute inequalities (and trends in inequalities)

Discussion of implications of the age decomposition analysis has been included

The manuscript is now clearer, easier to read, and provides a fuller account of methods, results, discussion and conclusion.
Level of interest
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

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.

I declare that I have no competing interests

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