Reviewer's report

Title: Specialisation versus special interest - the Australian podiatry experience

Version: 3 Date: 28 September 2015

Reviewer: Lisa Farndon

Reviewer's report:

Abstract/Background last sentence - I still think the aim isn’t very clear. Consider putting more detail such as using the information from the third paragraph of the Background section which seems to explain the aims a little better.

Abstract/methods first sentence – survey used twice in the first sentence, please re-word.

Page 3, Background, fourth paragraph, last sentence regarding protection of titles. I think this needs further explanation as functional closure would limit scope of practice, but protection of title only does allow for expansion in scope of practice.

Page 3, Methods, first sentence – please re-word.

Methods, third sentence – should be in Results section.

Methods, 2nd paragraph, last sentence – number of responses needs to go into results section. Need to reference the survey here. Also ‘potentially’ received the survey. Can you say how many were sent out to get an accurate sample size and response rate?

Page 6, 2nd paragraph, last sentence – This needs to go in the results section.

Secondary Data Analysis – Move this to the front of the methods section.

Page 7, no level of significance is set for Chi square tests.

Page 8, 1st paragraph – male gender was the only factor which would predict perception of status – please explain this in more detail.

5th paragraph, last sentence – why is biomechanics diminishing in the US? Does Kraus say?

Page 10, last section – I’m not sure some of these claims can be substantiated from the data without some further explanation.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

Statistical review: Yes, but I do not feel adequately qualified to assess the
statistics.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests