

Author's response to reviews

Title: Health inequalities, physician citizens and professional medical associations: An Australian case study

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Dr Chrissie Kouremenou
Senior Assistant Editor
BMC - series

Dear Dr Kouremenou,

Re: Revised MS 9807801124709130: "Health inequalities, physician citizens and professional medical associations: An Australian case study"

Many thanks for the opportunity to submit a revision of this MS for publication in BMC Medicine. In response to reviewer comments we have included the following section within the methods section:

"We undertook iterative re-reading of data from across the interviews within each of the program areas, seeking similarities, supportive and dis-confirmatory evidence for identified themes. Emerging results were considered at sequential meetings of the project reference group. Findings from the thematic analysis were checked for validity through presentations made to staff and GP members at the national office and state faculties of the College. These meetings also included participants from the local University Department of General Practice, and representatives of Divisions of General Practice. The final report incorporated feedback from those meetings."

We have added the following sentence at the end of the discussion section and believe that this, together with other material in the manuscript that addresses issues of financial tensions for physicians, adequately addresses the comments of one of the reviewers.

"Nevertheless, it remains true that balancing economic gain and security against extending the reach of and access to care does involve a tension between embedded value positions. Understanding and openly debating this may be important in resolving such tensions."

We have used the word "affect" instead of "impact" on once occasion in the manuscript.

"Considering social disadvantage when exploring a community profile or a training curriculum problem schema would build an awareness of barriers to accessing care and the way proximal social determinants **affect** the health of disadvantaged patients."

Yours sincerely

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