Author's response to reviews

Title: The association between diet quality, dietary patterns and depression in adults: A systematic review

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The Editor, *BMC Psychiatry*

Dear Editor,

Thank-you for considering our manuscript, entitled ‘The association between diet quality, dietary patterns and depression in adults: A systematic review’ for publication in *BMC Psychiatry*.

Recent evidence suggests that diet modifies key biological factors associated with the development of depression; however, associations between diet quality and depression are not fully understood. Many groups have now conducted research examining the relationship between diet quality and depression; such studies have been carried out in countries including the United States, Japan, Greece, Korea, China, Norway, France, Spain, and the UK. Here we present the first systematic synthesis and critical analysis of evidence regarding diet quality, dietary patterns and depression.

Given the topic, type and breadth of our analysis, we note that the word count of our manuscript is 4,002. Should it be requested, we could relocate our ‘Description of the studies’ section, which contains 548 words (page 7-8), into a supplementary file.

All authors have approved this manuscript submission, and have disclosed financial relationships, which are included following the main text as per journal requirements. All authors qualify for authorship, notably, (i) substantial contributions to conception and design or analysis and interpretation of data, (ii) substantial contribution to drafting the article and/or revising it critically for important intellectual content, and (iii) final approval of the version to be published.

Thank you,

Sharon Brennan, for the authors Shae Quirk, Lana J Williams, Adrienne O’Neil, Julie A Pasco, Felice N Jacka, Siobhan Housden, Michael Berk, and Sharon L Brennan