Author's response to reviews

Title: Factors influencing the consumption of seafood among young children in Perth: a qualitative study

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Author's response to reviews: see over
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Iratxe Puebla
Senior Assistant Editor
BMC-series journals

Dear Iratxe

MS: 2020358045127718 Factors influencing the consumption of seafood among young children in Perth: a qualitative study. A McManus, SK Burns, PA Howat, L Cooper, L Fielder

Thank you for the positive comments received by the reviewers of the abovementioned article. It has been revised accordingly and resubmitted electronically. The specific responses to reviewer comments are listed below.

Yours sincerely

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REVIEWER: H TRUBY

General comments
- All focus group participants were from a mid level socio economic status of the target population with a wide variety of ethic backgrounds. This information has been included in revised manuscript as suggested.

Specific comments
- The first statement in the introduction has been referenced as suggested.
- ‘healthy lifestyle’ has been changed to ‘healthy diet’
- The point made regarding the importance of how seafood is prepared and consumed is valid and was indeed evident from the study. This point has been emphasised in the discussion as requested.
- 2nd para – First sentence has been reworded
- 7th line – indigenous populations was intentially plural
- The limitations of the study were included within the text however a further paragraph has been added to highlight the major limitations of the study.
- Typo in the abstract corrected.

REVIEWER: THERESA NICKLAS
- Results – The age of children of participants has been clarified
- Several theories were used to develop the questions however inductive data reduction methods were used to analyse the results. Grounded theory will be used to develop the proposed intervention.
- A limitations section has been included
- Funding proposals for a larger study are currently being considered. The proposed study will be a RCT with appropriate theory-based methodology. All questionnaire used in our studies are validated prior to implementation.
REVIEWER: WIM VERBEKE

- A separate limitations section has been added to address points raised about the descriptive nature of the study.
- Investigate has been changed to explore as suggested.
- The comment referring to ‘all children’ has been changed to ‘all children of study participants’.
- The comment relating to significant determinants was in the context of the responses given by participants. ‘Perceived cost, freshness, availability/accessibility, and the level of confidence to prepare a meal to suit all family members were significant determinants of whether seafood featured regularly on the household menu.’ Determinants is defined as ‘factors that control or influences’ (Oxford Dictionary) and the authors feel that its use (together with significant) is warranted here. There is no indication or implication relating to statistical significance or determinants of health, simply a use of appropriate wording within a specific context.
- The authors would be surprised if the interpretation included head and tail for children’s preferences however the comment has been clarified to indicate ‘fish meat’.
- The ‘trends’ refers to participants comments in their own preferences over time. This point will be clarified.
- While the reviewer’s comments regarding further information about the personal characteristics of the persons associated with each statement included in the results section is available to the authors and would add a further dimension to the results, inclusion of these data would breech the confidentiality agreement entered into by the investigators and study participants as the participants could potentially be identified. Should funding be received for the larger proposed study, the increased sample size will allow this type of formation to be reported.
- Whilst the points raised by the reviewer relating to another study (Verbeke, et al., PH Nut 2005) are indeed very interesting, exploring these points was outside the scope of this small study. A larger study could provide some support for these questions.
- The remaining points raised relate to the conclusions made. The manuscript has been revised to ensure that the reader is very clear that the conclusions relate to this descriptive, exploratory study and that the recommendations/suggestions are such.