Reviewer’s report

Title: The development and evaluation of the Australian Child and Adolescent Recommended Food Score: a cross-sectional study

Version: 5 Date: 18 October 2012

Reviewer: Anna Stahl

Reviewer’s report:

The manuscript was improved, but I have some further suggestions for better consistency and comprehensiveness.

1. The number of protein foods (line 109) is not plausible, because 13 is not equal 6 + 6.
2. The citation of p-values in the text is inconsistent, for example p>0.05 (line 195), p=0.07 (line 216), p=0.003 (line 243), p<0.0001 (line 243). I prefer p-values with three decimal places (p=0.xxx, p=0.070, p=0.003, p<0.001). P-values in table 5 should not be reported as p<0.0000.
3. The information given in line 195-196 is redundant (no difference in age ... no difference across age-groups).
4. The sentence in line 211-214 should be split: “Multiple linear regression ... (R2=0.04, p<0.001). The regression coefficients were r=0.10 for gender, ... and r=0.12 for sedentary behaviour.”
5. There is an inconsistency in the interpretation of ACARFS scores: “score of 19 to 31 (quartiles two and three) have a moderate diet quality” (line 350), but “score of 25 or less have a poorer diet quality...” (line 353)
6. It is not clearly described whether the percentage of overweight participants includes obese participants or not (line 68-70). A short definition of overweight and obesity in addition to table 2 would be helpful.
7. The percentage of participants meeting the sedentary behaviour recommendations should be added in the first result section or in table 2, because this was a confounding factor in the analyses.
8. The first row below table 2 can be removed, if the left-hand column is reformatted. For example:
   Mean age (SD) [years]
   Overweight [%]
9. Reference 16: First authors are mentioned twice.
10. Reference 35: misspelling

Quality of written English: Acceptable
**Statistical review:** No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

**Declaration of competing interests:**

I declare that I have no competing interests.