Reviewer's report

Title: Effectiveness of the National Program of Complementary Feeding for older adults in Chile on vitamin B12 status in older adults; secondary outcome analysis from the CENEX Study (ISRCTN48153354)

Version: 3 Date: 27 June 2013

Reviewer: mary rose sweeney

Reviewer's report:

Please supply a point by point response to each item raised otherwise it is difficult to see where the points have been addressed in the manuscript.

Remove sentence “rapid aging” - the population are not rapidly aging.

Can the authors provide a table or figure showing a breakdown of the compliance/adherence to the diet, showing how many did not comply at all for example and how many complied most of the time, and what food items they complied with.

The outcome that shows an overall decrease in B12 levels during this period which the authors propose is due to the CENEX programme reducing their B12 programme does not explain why folate levels also reduced. These changes in folate and B12 status indicate that sources of both vitamins were removed from their diet during this period. If this is the case the authors should quantify the exact changes made and state how this would have impacted on the intakes and levels of both vitamins in the population under study. This was not an optimal time to be testing the impact of a B12 fortification programme when the remainder of their dietary intake is not stable. This may even invalidate the findings.

Please supply a reference to the table supplied in the reference section.