Reviewer’s report

Title: Effects of Lifestyle Modification on Metabolic Syndrome: A Meta-analysis

Version: 3 Date: 9 August 2012

Reviewer: Rebecca Turner

Reviewer’s report:

I’ve been asked to comment on the authors’ response to referee 1’s comments, rather than reviewing the manuscript itself.

I agree with referee 1 that the current assessment of study quality is very poor. It is essential to use a standardised tool, preferably the Cochrane Collaboration’s Risk of Bias tool as recommended by referee 1.

The Risk of Bias table should be presented in full, for all studies, and the findings should be discussed in the results section. The authors commented that information needed for quality assessment is often lacking in the original papers. This can be represented as a judgement of “Unclear” in the Risk of Bias table, and does not justify omitting an assessment of study quality.

In addition, I agree that the process for completing quality assessments needs to be described more clearly. Assuming that the Risk of Bias assessments have yet to be done, I would recommend following the advice in the Cochrane handbook (available at www.cochrane-handbook.org).

Declaration of competing interests:

I have no competing interests