Author’s response to reviews

Title: Healthy Living after Cancer: A dissemination and implementation study evaluating a telephone-delivered healthy lifestyle program for cancer survivors

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Author’s response to reviews:

Dr Dafne Solera, Executive Editor, BMC Cancer
BioMed Central, Floor 6, 236 Gray’s Inn Road
London, WC1X 8HB, United Kingdom

9th December 2015

Dear Dr Solera,

Thank you for your review of our study protocol, Healthy Living after Cancer: A dissemination and implementation study evaluating a telephone-delivered healthy lifestyle program for cancer survivors, and the opportunity to provide a revised manuscript.

Please find below our point-by-point response to the reviewer and editorial comments. Changes have been made to the manuscript in track changes, as requested.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely

Elizabeth Eakin
On behalf of all authors
Reviewer Reports:

Please add the date of trial registration just after the TRN at the end of the abstract.

This has been amended as follows (page 3, lines 25 and 26):

“Trial Registration: Australian and New Zealand Clinical Trials Registry (ANZCTR) - ACTRN12615000882527 (registered on 24/08/2015)”

Editorial Requests:

Ethics:

If your study involves humans, human data or animals, then your article should contain an ethics statement which includes the name of the committee that approved your study. If ethics was not required for your study, then this should be clearly stated and a rationale provided.

Although our paper already included a statement regarding ethical approval we have amended it slightly to make it clearer (page 7, lines 18-23):

“Ethical approval was granted from the human research ethics committees of the following institutions: Cancer Council Victoria (on behalf of Cancer Councils Victoria and South Australia), Cancer Council New South Wales, the University of Queensland and the University of Western Australia (on behalf of Cancer Council Western Australia). Ethical approval is also sought as required for referring clinical sites in these states.”

Consent:

If your article is a prospective study involving human participants then your article should include a statement detailing consent for participation. If individual clinical data is presented in your article, then you must clarify whether consent for publication of these data was obtained.

A statement regarding consent for participation can be found at the bottom of page 9 (lines 27 and 28) and the top of page 10 (lines 1 and 2):

“Those eligible will be posted an information sheet and a follow-up telephone call will be completed a week later to obtain informed consent (verbal and audiotaped or paper-based, depending upon the recruitment protocol used at the referring site).”

No individual clinical data is presented in the article.
Availability of supporting data:

BioMed Central strongly encourages all data sets on which the conclusions of the paper rely be either deposited in publicly available repositories (where available and appropriate) or presented in the main papers or additional supporting files, in machine-readable format whenever possible. Authors must include an Availability of Data and Materials section in their article detailing where the data supporting their findings can be found. The Accession Numbers of any nucleic acid sequences, protein sequences or atomic coordinates cited in the manuscript must be provided and include the corresponding database name.

Data collection for Healthy Living after Cancer began in June 2015 and will be ongoing until December 2018. At this point there is no data available to be published and this particular paper we have submitted is in regards to the protocol only (i.e., no conclusions are reported). We will endeavour to make a dataset available when interim results are published and again when final results are published.

Authors contributions:

Your ‘Author’s Contributions’ section must detail the individual contribution for each individual author listed on your manuscript.

We believe we have met this criteria, as per the following:

“EGE, SCH, MRH, MMR, JLV, FB, JEH, GDM, ADG, MJ, BK, CMS, WD-W, KSC, KHS, AG, KW, KC, AGB, SM and GS are the principal and associate investigators of the project. They were extensively involved in the development of the HLaC concept and design and also provide project governance. KL, LM, LO’B, PB and ELR assist with supervision of the project and provide administrative and technical support. All authors were involved in drafting and critically revising the manuscript and also read and approved the final manuscript.”

This is in line with the author’s contributions sections in other recent publications in BMC Cancer. If this is not sufficient please let us know what specific revisions are required and we will revise accordingly.