Reviewer’s report

Title: Nutrition promotion approaches preferred by socioeconomically disadvantaged Australian adolescents: a qualitative study

Version: 2 Date: 4 November 2014

Reviewer: Jayne Fulkerson

Reviewer’s report:

Thank you for the opportunity to review this manuscript describing a qualitative study investigating nutrition promotion approaches that could be used for socioeconomically disadvantaged Australian adolescents. The research questions were well described and the methods and analysis were appropriate. The limitations are clearly stated and thorough. The findings demonstrate useful suggestions for adolescent-focused interventions for healthful eating. However, attention to the following issues may improve the clarity and reach of the manuscript.

Major Compulsory Revisions:

1) Given that only about half of adolescents in the study were from disadvantaged backgrounds/households, I question whether the current literature focus and description of previous studies is adequately representative. Although the authors focus the literature on disadvantaged youth, perhaps studies of general populations of adolescents are similar to what was found in the present study and recommendations would not necessarily have to be limited to disadvantaged adolescents (could increase reach). Or perhaps many of the recommendations would be similar across socioeconomic strata but there are some specific to disadvantaged youth.

2) More information about the small number of interventions aimed at improving dietary intakes of disadvantaged adolescents is needed (see first paragraph of background). Much more text is provided to describe the observational studies conducted to date, but the intervention work is perhaps more important and relevant to the authors’ research questions.

3) More information is needed regarding the approximate number of adolescents who were distributed recruitment materials, invited to participate in the study, the participation rate and how representative these students are of the total student body (I am not convinced that qualitative studies do not consider representativeness).

4) In the US, alternative high school youth are at-risk with many of them socioeconomically disadvantaged and there are several publications on this population that appear to be relevant to this manuscript.

5) The authors may want to provide specific suggestions for parental involvement, particularly if parents from low socioeconomic households are working several jobs and time is limited.
Minor Essential Revisions:
1) There were several typographical errors and missing commas (e.g., first line of background, last sentence of data analysis section).
2) Should “cater for taste preferences” be “cater to taste preferences”?
3) “Healthily” is not a proper word and should be replaced with “healthful” or “healthfully”.

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Needs some language corrections before being published

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.