Author’s response to reviews

Title: Barriers and facilitators to weight management in overweight and obese women living in Australia with PCOS: A qualitative study

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Dear Editors

We are pleased to re-submit our manuscript “Barriers and facilitators to weight management in overweight and obese women living in Australia with PCOS: A qualitative study”. We were instructed to clarify the following points:

-Your manuscript advises that written informed consent was obtained from all participants. However, we note that some participants took part in telephone interviews. Please clarify how Consent to Participate was collected from these participants.

Response: We have inserted the following into the manuscript (lines 143-4): If participants provided a telephone interview, the signed consent form was emailed to researchers.
We note that the quotations contained within your manuscript are associated with potentially identifiable information.

Currently, the name and age information, in combination with other potential identifiers, may compromise patient/participant anonymity.

Please amend these to address this issue, by replacing participant names with genders and providing ages as age ranges.

All participants were given pseudonyms to protect their identities. This is stated in the current manuscript line 166 which states “All women were given pseudonyms to protect their identities.” We consider this to be an adequate form of protecting identity. Although we have provided the participants’ ages, this is the only identifier and as such as we consider it adequate protection. We have not provided any other identifying information that is linked to individual participants and their quotes. All demographic data is provided in aggregated form and is very general in nature e.g. employment status. It is irrelevant to use gender as an identifier as we have stated that all the participants were women (given that this is a study on a female reproductive condition).

Warm regards

The Authors