**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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**Author’s response to reviews:**

Thank you for your kind review of our manuscript. We are pleased to attach the revised manuscript which has incorporated your feedback. We appreciate the input into making this a better manuscript.

Whye Lian Cheah (Reviewer 1): It is a well-written paper with clear information.

It will be good to add the following details to further strengthen the write up of this study.

1. **Under Methods.** Since there was mixture of FGD and one-to-one interview in the data collection, perhaps a statement about the strength of having data triangulation would enhance the credibility of the study. Especially one of the FGD session consisted only 2 participants, which can comprise the conduct of FGD that require a minimum number of participants to create the dynamic between them. Although this has mentioned briefly in the Limitation.

Thank you, we have now added the following section to our paragraph on Strengths and Limitations: “First, the sample size is small, including one focus group which contained two participants. However thematic saturation was achieved in the overall sample and the themes were agreed upon by two reviewers, providing support for internal consistency. Additionally, the use of data source triangulation (focus group and interview data) allowed us to gain broader perspectives on the topic and enhances the credibility of the study.” (Lines 454-8)
2. Under Limitation, the authors have mentioned about the interviews were conducted without the presence of interpreters. This information was not mentioned in the Methods as how the facilitators capture the information from participants who do not speak English.

On line 151 in our methods, in the section “Participants”, we have stated that inclusion criteria required participants to be fluent in English.

3. Under Methods, there were five topics explored for this study. All were captured except perceived effectiveness and perceived advantages and disadvantages which were not clearly described in the results.

The previously listed topics for the interviews and focus groups were to the broader aim of exploring barriers and facilitators to lifestyle management in women with PCOS. The results were presented according to themes that were inductively derived from the interviews and focus groups, not according to the interview or focus group schedule structure.

For further clarification, we have edited the Methods section to the following:

“To explore the barriers and facilitators to engaging with these lifestyle management, the interviews and focus groups included questions on past weight loss attempts, knowledge and attitudes towards various different weight interventions, perceived effectiveness and perceived advantages and disadvantages.” (Lines 162-5).

4. Please add another paragraph as how you achieve Trustworthiness in this qualitative study.

We have added a paragraph as suggested in the Discussion section, under Strength and Limitation

“This study was conducted and reported according to the Consolidated criteria for reporting qualitative studies (COREQ) guidelines which ensures sound and logical conduct of the research process that contributes to dependability. Data source triangulation and independent coding by several reviewers enhances credibility of the findings. Participants’ characteristics were provided to assist readers to decide on transferability of the findings to other populations and direct quotes are provided to illustrate the themes. Interviewers’ and focus group facilitator’s characteristic were described to address reflexivity.” (lines 445-452)
Pavlina Andreeva-Gateva (Reviewer 2):

This is a qualitative review of the barriers and facilitators to weight management in overweight and obese women living in Australia with PCOS. Ten patient were interviewed with a semi-structured interview.

My comment is about data in the table.

How it could be that in all questions there is always one missing response (10%)? Why it was so difficult to obtain the full information from the interviewed patient?

On Line 192 we had provided the following information:

Nine out of ten women contributed to the demographic data, while one did not return the survey.

We have now added this information to the footnote of the table.

In the Results section, we have changed this to

“Nine out of ten women contributed to the demographic data, while one did not return the survey despite repeated reminders to do so.” (Line 200).