Reviewer's report

Title: The relationship between dietary factors and gestational hypertension and preeclampsia: a systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies

Version: 1 Date: 4 August 2014

Reviewer: Jodie Dodd

Reviewer's report:

Overall, the comments raised by the reviewers have been addressed by the authors. I think it is important for the authors to highlight that there are significant limitations - the data that has been meta-analysed has been drawn from case control and cohort studies all of which have significant methodological limitations. Therefore the findings can at best be associations only. It would be very useful for the authors to put their findings into context particularly in relation to the RCTs that have been conducted in the prevention of pre-eclampsia. While these RCTs have focussed on nutrient supplementation (vitamins C & E and calcium) rather than "whole foods" as indicated by the authors, they tend to demonstrate no effect (vitamins C & E) or modest effect at best (calcium) in prevention. I also think it is very important that the identified associations between increased energy intake be modified - these findings are not statistically significant and the text should not focus overly on their discussion.

Overall, the validity of the review is limited, not so much in the review methodology per se, but from the inclusion of the underlying studies and their inherent bias.

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no conflicts of interest