**Reviewer’s report**

**Title:** Measuring food provision in Western Australian long day care (LDC) services: A weighed food record method/protocol at a service level.

**Version:** 0  **Date:** 28 Feb 2019

**Reviewer:** Anna Harton

**Reviewer's report:**

Comments and Suggestions for Authors:

Preparing manuscript: Abstract includes background and briefly presents methods, discussion and trial registration, in the last part the authors indicate that I quote "this research project is conducted at a service level and not a clinical trial, registration was not required". Text of abstract contain explanation of abbreviations used in the abstract as well as later in the text. The abstract not cite references. The body of the article was broken into subsections such as: introduction, methods, discussion as well as list of abbreviations. Additionally the abbreviations are used in the text were defined at first use also in the abstract. Manuscripts includes all required declarations such as: ethics approval, consent for publication, availability of data and material, competing interests, funding, authors' contributions as well as acknowledgements. The authors did not include "Authors' information" but it was only optional.

**Introduction:**

Lines 62-63 (page 3) authors wrote "More recently, interventions have been based on encouraging compliance with the Australian Dietary Guidelines (2013)…” Please explain if there are no newer recommendations than those from 2013.

Line 69 (page 4) "The Australian Dietary Guidelines (ADG)" - the explanation of this abbreviation should be on the first use - line 63.

Lines 86-92 (page 4) It is worth stressing which country these issues concern?

**Methods:**

Line 258 (page 12): Please explain who was the research assistant and what were the recruitment rules to become research assistant?

Line 300 (page 14)- authors used the term "discretionary food" - Please explain or define of it.
Lines 303, 306 (page 14) - the authors used form of the future time "will be" - Please explain?

Lines 306-307 (page 15): authors wrote "A 2-3 year old boy will be chosen as a reference child in Foodworks as the majority (45%) of children ...." - 45% it is not the majority!

In the text there is no reference to table 2 as well as discuss the content of the table 2 (page 15).

Relates to points 6 (line 344, page 17) - Please explain if it was possible to have a different number of children and staff during individual meals within one facility?

Discussion: the discussion is very short, incomparably shorter than other parts. It includes only 11 (lines: 381-391) and 3 references of the cited literature. It is recommended to extend this part of the manuscript with particular attention to the practical aspects of the issues raised.

Reference: 12% of the references (9 with 74 items) are older than 10 years.

**Level of interest**
Please indicate how interesting you found the manuscript:

An article of importance in its field

**Quality of written English**
Please indicate the quality of language in the manuscript:

Acceptable

**Declaration of competing interests**
Please complete a declaration of competing interests, considering the following questions:

1. Have you in the past five years received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

2. Do you hold any stocks or shares in an organisation that may in any way gain or lose financially from the publication of this manuscript, either now or in the future?

3. Do you hold or are you currently applying for any patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

4. Have you received reimbursements, fees, funding, or salary from an organization that holds or has applied for patents relating to the content of the manuscript?

5. Do you have any other financial competing interests?

6. Do you have any non-financial competing interests in relation to this paper?
If you can answer no to all of the above, write 'I declare that I have no competing interests' below. If your reply is yes to any, please give details below.

I declare that I have no competing interests.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal. I understand that my name will be included on my report to the authors and, if the manuscript is accepted for publication, my named report including any attachments I upload will be posted on the website along with the authors' responses. I agree for my report to be made available under an Open Access Creative Commons CC-BY license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). I understand that any comments which I do not wish to be included in my named report can be included as confidential comments to the editors, which will not be published.

I agree to the open peer review policy of the journal