To A/Prof Andy Wearn,

**RE: RESEARCH ARTICLE SUBMISSION**

Please find attached our manuscript titled “Nutrition students and mathematics: Competent but not confident” that we would like to submit for publication in *Focus on Health Professional Education: A Multi Professional Journal.*

Numeracy is an essential element of study in nutrition and dietetics. Students should be able to evaluate and conceptualise mathematical ideas within a nutrition context. Within our university, we have noted that the progression of some undergraduate nutrition students is hindered because of difficulty in applying mathematical skills. Some students are so disengaged with mathematics that they avoid calculation questions altogether, irrespective of whether they may have the necessary ability.

This research paper describes the evaluation of undergraduate nutrition student numeracy in a major metropolitan Australian university. Students were tested on their mathematical competence (ability to correctly answer mathematical questions), as well as questions on their perceived confidence, perception of ease, disposition and anxiety around mathematics. These findings will be important for tailoring a numeracy support framework that specifically addresses confidence and disposition to ensure that students can succeed in the mathematical challenges inherent to their course and future nutrition career.

This manuscript, or parts of it, have not been and will not be submitted elsewhere for publication until a decision is made as to its acceptability by your journal. Furthermore, all authors have reviewed and approved the complete manuscript (including tables and figures).

**Abstract word count: 190**

**Manuscript word count: 3370**

**Manuscript page count: 24**

**Tables: 3**

**Figures: 1**

Thank you in advance for considering our manuscript. We look forward to your reply.

Kind regards,

Dr Karin Clark

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