

DATE: 8 March 2013

Drs' Tiresome Turf War Not About Patient Care

The CEO of the Chiropractors' Association of Australia (CAA), Andrew McNamara, has described comments today about Chiropractors by the AMA and a group claiming to be friends of science in medicine as "alarmist and offensive."

The comments, published in several newspapers, purported to be concerns about Chiropractors treating children, but Mr McNamara said they did not provide any evidence to back up these concerns.

"Chiropractic is safe, effective, affordable and mainstream. These tactics have no place in modern thinking about a healthier Australia. They are the latest instalment of an old and tiresome turf war by the doctors' union that has nothing to do with patient care," Mr McNamara said.

"In the 1970s and 1980s, concerted attacks were made on the Chiropractic profession. The campaign failed. Australians have voted with their feet and 215,000 of them see a Chiropractor every week.

"Moreover the Chiropractor is a professional thriving in the environment of Australians actively seeking healthy lifestyles and preventative health care advice," he said.

The CAA (National) notes that the AMA President Steve Hambleton said he does not mind chiropractors treating adults with musculoskeletal conditions such as back pain and noting there "is some evidence it can be of value there."

"Over 2 million Australians have back pain every year. It is a common ailment with serious consequences. Australians would benefit from more investment in chiropractic treatment and research," Mr McNamara said.

"The overwhelming number of Chronic Disease Management Medicare items are of course for adults with chronic and complex conditions that need the support of allied health professionals such as a chiropractor.

"The comments attacking Chiropractors caring for children are alarmist and offensive and have no place in modern thinking about a healthier Australia," he said.

*This is the link. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/health/chiropractic-funding-called-into-question-20130307-2foic.html>

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