

24 March 2018

On Thursday 22 March CAA National provided the following statement to the NT News in the Northern Territory concerning chiropractic care for infants and children.

Parents typically seek chiropractic care for their children for musculoskeletal disorders. In caring for children chiropractors may provide a range of care including manipulation, dietary and ergonomic advice, exercise, counselling and other manual therapies such as massage.

According to President of the Chiropractors' Association of Australia (CAA), Dr Andrew Lawrence, "Chiropractic is a very safe therapeutic option for infants and young children. Chiropractors are trained to choose an appropriate method of care that is suited to the age and condition of each patient."

"Chiropractors are registered health professionals who practice according to the code conduct laid down by the Chiropractic Board of Australia and additionally by the CAA."

"When providing chiropractic care to infants and young children, the CAA expects all practitioners to have a good understanding of the principles of public health including disease prevention and health promotion" said Dr Lawrence.

Chiropractic care includes the provision of advice on physical activity and posture, nutrition, injury prevention and a healthy lifestyle. Effective collaboration with other health practitioners is a fundamental aspect of good practice.

"Current research indicates that the incidence of serious adverse events, either directly from manual therapy or indirectly by delayed or mis-diagnosis, while real is nevertheless rare" Dr Lawrence said.

"I would say that studies have shown that chiropractic is many times safer than the non-steroidal anti-inflammatories that are sometimes recommended for infants and young children who suffer from the pain and discomfort that chiropractors look after."
Dr Lawrence said a Chiropractic qualification is a five-year university-based programme.

"This training includes examination and diagnosis of infants, babies and young children and the application of special techniques to relieve the problems for which parents to take their babies to see a chiropractor."

"Like all registered health practitioner, chiropractors also undertake mandatory continuing professional development to maintain, enhance and extend their knowledge, expertise and competence to improve the quality of health care they provide."

For further information:

1. CBA Code of Conduct for Chiropractors, March 2014
2. CAA Quality Care Statement, November 2016
3. CAA Chiropractic Infographic, 2016

These are available at chiropractors.asn.au/policies

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