

**Policy statement by the Chiropractic and Osteopathic College of Australasia (COCA) regarding the provision of care for children.**

As a professional organisation that advocates quality, safe and ethical chiropractic and osteopathic practice within the framework of evidence based practice, COCA expresses concern with respect to chiropractors, osteopaths and others, who employ spinal manipulation when providing care for children with non-musculoskeletal conditions. These non-musculoskeletal conditions include conditions such as colic, asthma, bed wetting and otitis media.

The best available evidence is either inconclusive or does not support the use of manual therapy for the treatment of non-musculoskeletal conditions in children [1,2]. In COCA's view it is inappropriate to provide treatment that has been shown to be ineffective or where there is insufficient evidence to support its use when other available treatment options have been demonstrated to be beneficial.

In the interest of safe and effective clinical practice, COCA suggests that where chiropractors and osteopaths intend to provide care for children with these non-musculoskeletal conditions it would be best be done in consultation with the child's general medical practitioner or specialist. Further, the child (if appropriate) and the parents of the child should be fully informed of the lack of evidence to support the care proposed.

*Endorsed by the Board of the Chiropractic & Osteopathic College of Australasia - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2013*

**References**

1. Bronfort G, Haas M, Evans R, Leininger B, Triano J. Effectiveness of manual therapies: the UK evidence report. *Chiropr Osteopat* 2010;18:3
2. French SD, Walker BF, Perle SM. Chiropractic care for children: too much, too little or not enough? *Chiropr Osteopat* 2010;18:17