



MUSCULOSKELETAL
AUSTRALIA

PRESS RELEASE

Topic:

Musculoskeletal Australia launches MSK Kids program to increase awareness and support for children and their families living with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and other musculoskeletal conditions.

Musculoskeletal Australia to launch 'MSK Kids' program in support of kids living with juvenile arthritis nation wide

The voice of more than 7 million Australians living with musculoskeletal conditions, Musculoskeletal Australia (MSK), has welcomed funding from several partner organisations to launch MSK Kids. This program will provide the first comprehensive suite of information and support resources for kids, and their families living with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA) and other musculoskeletal conditions.

MSK CEO Rob Anderson says “People don’t realise that kids get arthritis too and that it is as common as type 1 diabetes for the same age group. In fact, 1 in 800 Australian kids (0-17) are living with JIA. We’ve created tools to enable kids to feel more supported at home, in school and allow their teachers and friends to understand what they’re going through.”

MSK has worked in partnership with a number of children’s hospitals throughout Australia including The Royal Children’s, Monash Children’s and John Hunter Hospital as well as consumer groups and school nurses. The MSK Kids Care Pack will include the Rheum Record and Health Care Plan. The Rheum Record is a 20 page booklet containing information about JIA and tips on how to effectively manage the condition. The Health Care Plan compliments this by allowing parents and healthcare professionals to ensure up to date information is available at all times.

As well as the information and support resources, MSK will be rolling out MSK Kids Live in partnership with the Starlight Foundation. MSK Kids Live is an online portal that connects kids with a chronic illness living anywhere in Australia and New Zealand.

“To be able to create a community for these kids and their parents allows for greater support and understanding about what they’re experiencing.” Mr Anderson continued, “At MSK the consumer is at the centre of everything we do, and this program is no different. We have worked with parents, carers and kids to ensure that what we are delivering is what they need, how they need it.”

The project will focus on improving the offerings for children going through this journey and to provide accessible, high quality programs for young people, as well as increasing awareness in the wider community of what these kids are going through.

About Musculoskeletal Australia

Musculoskeletal Australia (MSK) is a consumer organisation working with and advocating on behalf of people with back pain, arthritis, osteoporosis, gout and more than 150 other musculoskeletal conditions. These conditions can affect every aspect of a person’s life – with pain and fatigue causing significant distress. Schooling, working, finances, family life, mental health and being involved in the community can all be impacted by having a chronic and painful musculoskeletal condition. Musculoskeletal – it’s a hard word to say, and it’s hard to live with. We’re here to help.

For further information about this event, please contact:

Annika Hall

Public Relations Officer

Musculoskeletal Australia

T: 03 8531 8002 0481 333 787

E: annika@msk.org.au

W: www.msk.org.au