

Southern Inland Health Initiative

ETS saves family holiday in Jurien Bay

When eight-year Cody's mum heard a crack after her son jumped off an inflatable trampoline in Jurien Bay, she figured their holiday was about to be cut short.

"It was only small jump, but the loud crack was quite alarming and Cody was in a lot of pain – so I was really worried," said mum, Tania Gee.

"I contacted the nurse at the Jurien Bay Health Centre right away. She was really helpful and told me to apply ice on and off for the next half-hour, to give Cody some pain relief, and then bring him down to the centre.

"The nurse was great with Cody and really helped to calm him down," said Tania.

Clinical Nurse Manager, Annette Fookes said that as a popular family holiday destination, the Jurien Bay Health Centre receives many calls about children being injured.

"It can be tough for parents if they are away from home, so it's very important to be reassuring and calm.

"When Cody and his family attended the Health Centre, they were quite concerned that he had broken a bone in his leg. I explained that I could only perform an x-ray with the consent of a doctor, and that while there wasn't a doctor in town, we

could contact an experienced emergency medicine specialist via the Emergency Telehealth Service."

With the ETS videoconferencing system up and running, the doctor on duty, emergency physician Dr Bob Graydon, examined Cody's injury and requested x-rays, which Annette performed at the Health Centre and transmitted to Dr Graydon.

"There was a slight vibration on the doctor's screen, which made it a little challenging for him to review the x-rays – however, he believed there was a hairline fracture of the lateral malleolus (ankle bone) and I placed Cody's leg in a half cast," said Annette.

"Dr Graydon also arranged for the family to attend Armadale Hospital for further x-rays after five days, to allow some of the swelling to subside," she said.

Tania was really impressed with the treatment her son received at the Jurien Bay Health Centre, and Armadale Hospital later confirmed that Cody did have a hairline fracture and that the treatment he had received had helped to stabilize his injury.

"We hadn't even been in Jurien Bay a day when Cody was injured, and I thought we would need to pack everything up and head home. However, the treatment we received at the Health Centre and through the Emergency Telehealth Service was really amazing, and we were able to stay on and enjoy the rest of our holiday," said Tania.