Children's Dentistry in Melbourne | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/childrens-dentistry/

Details:

At Core Dental we believe making the dentist a positive experience for your child is important for building good oral health habits. Our children's dentistry includes routine check-ups, professional cleaning, fluoride treatments, fissure sealants, fillings and oral hygiene education. We recommend a first visit at two years of age, we bulk bill eligible children aged 0 to 17 under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, and specialist paediatric dentists see children at four of our clinics. Call 13 13 16 or book online. Suitability and results vary for each child.

What is the goal of our children's dentistry?

We aim to make every child's first visit to the dentist a positive experience, one that encourages dental care to become a regular habit for the rest of your child's life. We explain what we are doing in simple words, pace each visit to suit your child, and give parents the time to ask questions.

Adults who are very afraid of the dentist often trace that feeling back to a difficult experience in childhood, and adults who are relaxed about their dental care often had calm early experiences. That is why we put so much care into early visits.

What does children's dentistry include?

Our children's dentistry services include:

Routine check-ups to look at teeth, gums and development

Professional cleaning

Fluoride treatments

Fissure sealants , which protect the grooves of back teeth

Fillings where decay is found

Oral hygiene education for children and parents, including brushing and cleaning between teeth

Children's braces and Invisalign , with an assessment usually from age 9 to 10

Sport mouthguards

Which of these your child needs depends on an examination, their age, their health, and their risk of decay.

When should my child have their first dental visit?

We recommend bringing children for their first dental appointment at two years of age. Regular check-ups let us spot problems early, look after baby teeth, and help reduce the risk of toothache. How often your child should be reviewed depends on their individual oral health, and your dentist will advise you.

What does a specialist paediatric dentist do?

A Specialist Paediatric Dentist is a registered specialist who holds a dental degree and then a qualification in paediatric dentistry, focused on the oral health of children and adolescents. The Dental Board of Australia's requirements for specialist registration are a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and "a minimum of two years general dental practice"; it sets those requirements rather than a course length. To use that title in Australia, a dentist must be registered as a specialist with AHPRA, the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. You can check registration on the register at ahpra.gov.au.

That training covers child psychology and behaviour management, how children's teeth develop and how baby teeth influence adult teeth, recognising early signs of orthodontic or developmental issues, and techniques for treating anxious children, children with special needs, and children who need treatment under sedation or general anaesthetic. Read more in our article on why we have specialist paediatric dentists and when a child should see a paediatric dentist .

Where can your child see a specialist paediatric dentist at Core Dental?

Our clinic pages list the specialist paediatric dentists who see children at each site:

Clinic	Specialist Paediatric Dentist
Carrum Downs	Dr Angel Babu
Caroline Springs	Dr Angel Babu
Berwick	Dr Sarah Scott
Epping	Dr Aish Kesava

Specialists attend on set sessions and availability is limited and can change, so please confirm the next available session when you book. Our general dentists at every clinic also treat children.

How does the Child Dental Benefits Schedule work?

We bulk bill eligible children aged 0 to 17 under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule at our clinics. Eligibility is determined by Services Australia and benefit limits apply, so please confirm your child's eligibility before the appointment. Our article on the Child Dental Benefits Schedule and bulk bill dentistry explains more.

How do we help nervous children?

Many children feel unsure about the dentist. We take things at a gentle pace, and our clinics are designed to feel calm, with music, ceiling screens and a welcoming atmosphere. Our articles on dental anxiety in children and helping a frightened child have practical tips. Some children may be suited to treatment under sedation or general anaesthetic with a specialist, which your dentist will discuss with you.

What should you do about a child's dental emergency?

Call us as early as you can for a toothache, a chipped tooth or a knocked-out tooth, as we reserve emergency appointments each day wherever possible. Call 000 immediately for uncontrolled bleeding,

trouble breathing or swallowing, or a serious facial injury. See what to do if a tooth is knocked out .

Where can your child have dental care at Core Dental?

We have nine clinics across Melbourne, open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and on Saturday mornings, so you can fit appointments around school. Our Carrum Downs clinic often schedules family appointments back-to-back, so ask your clinic about this when you book.

Further detail from Core Dental

The following points are drawn from Core Dental's own published material on this topic. They are included here for completeness, and anything that applies to your own treatment should be confirmed with your clinician.

We can manage the full spectrum of kids' cases – from basic to highly complex and everything in between – all at your local Core Dental practice. Checkups would normally be combined with professional cleaning a little later, from the early teenage years onwards. At Core Dental we make the experience fun for kids by using a variety of instructional toys and games. The idea is to involve them in the whole process and to let them have a good time while they learn how to look after their teeth and gums.

At their first visit we prefer to avoid treatment unless absolutely necessary. Orthodontic treatment, cosmetic treatment, mouthguard and any services provided in a hospital operating theatre are not included under the CDBS. We will assess your situation by phone and will work with you to decide on a recommended course of action. Our dentists and hygienists can show you, step by step and provide all the gear you need.

We'll offer the right advice and will follow up with an appointment if necessary.

Which services fall outside the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?

The exclusions matter more to most families than the inclusions, because they are where an unexpected bill comes from.

Services Australia lists what the schedule covers as check-ups, X-rays, cleaning, fissure sealing, fillings, root canals and extractions. It then lists the services that are not covered: "orthodontic dental work; cosmetic dental work; any dental services in a hospital."

Three consequences follow, and they are worth knowing before an appointment rather than after one.

Braces and aligners are not covered. Orthodontic treatment is excluded outright, so a child's benefit cannot be put towards it, however the treatment is arranged or staged.

Cosmetic work is not covered. Treatment classified as cosmetic sits outside the schedule even where the same procedure would be covered when it is restorative.

Hospital dentistry is not covered. If a child's treatment needs to be done in a hospital setting — which is sometimes the case for very young children or for complex work — the schedule does not apply to it.

Services Australia also warns that within the covered list, "there are some restrictions for basic dental services", and advises families to "check with your dentist if there are any item or time restrictions before starting your service." Some items cannot be claimed as often as a parent might expect.

One further detail affects families who also watch their Medicare thresholds: these services "don't count towards the threshold" of either the Medicare Safety Net or the Extended Medicare Safety Net.

Source: Services Australia, What's covered by the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, servicesaustralia.gov.au (page last updated 1 January 2026; accessed 3 November 2026).

How does the two-year benefit period actually work?

The schedule is often described as an annual benefit. It is not, and the difference can cost a family the unused balance.

Services Australia states that it covers "up to $1,158 for each eligible child over 2 calendar years for basic dental services", and that "the cap amount is indexed yearly on 1 January." That figure is the amount published at the time of writing, in November 2026; because it is indexed each January, check the current amount with Services Australia before relying on it.

The mechanics are these. The two-year period "starts at the beginning of the calendar year in which your child both: becomes eligible; gets their first dental service." The clock is therefore started by the first service, not by a birthday or by the calendar alone. The full amount may be used in the first of the two years, which leaves nothing for the second. If it is not used up, the remainder carries into the second year provided the child is still eligible.

What does not happen is a rollover beyond that. In Services Australia's words, "if you don't use the full amount within the 2 calendar years, you can't use the remaining funds. You'll have to wait for a new 2 year cover period to start." A balance also stops being available once a child is no longer eligible, which can happen mid-period if the family's qualifying payment ends.

Indexation has one quirk worth noting: Services Australia states that an increase in the cap "will only apply to a child or teenager who received their first eligible service in that calendar year." A child already partway through a two-year period does not have their cap lifted by the January increase.

On eligibility, the conditions are that the child is eligible for Medicare, is aged between 0 and 17 for at least one day in that calendar year, and that the child or a parent, carer or guardian receives an eligible payment at least once that calendar year. Families do not need to apply. Services Australia states that there is no need to apply or register for the schedule, and that it writes to families whose child is eligible.

Source: Services Australia, Who can get the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, servicesaustralia.gov.au (page last updated 15 April 2026; accessed 3 November 2026).

What public dental care is available to Victorian children?

For families who are not eligible for the federal schedule, or whose child needs work it does not cover, Victoria runs a separate public system with notably broad eligibility for children.

The Victorian Department of Health states that public dental services are delivered "through the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne (RDHM) and more than 40 integrated and registered community health services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations across Victoria."

For children specifically, eligibility does not depend on a concession card at all up to a certain age. The department lists as eligible "all children aged 0–12 years", and then "young people aged 13–17 years who hold a healthcare or pensioner concession card, or who are dependants of concession card holders". Also eligible are "all children and young people in out-of-home care provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), up to 18 years of age (including kinship and foster care)", along with all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all refugees and asylum seekers.

Children and young people are additionally named as a priority access group. The department explains that people with priority access "are offered the next available appointment for general care. They are not placed on the general waiting list." Everyone else seeking routine care does join a waiting list, so the distinction is a practical one.

If you want to pursue this, contact a community dental clinic or the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne directly; eligibility and waiting arrangements are theirs to confirm, not ours.

Source: Victorian Department of Health, Access to Victoria's public dental care services, health.vic.gov.au (updated 7 October 2026; accessed 3 November 2026).

Frequently asked questions

How can I prepare my child for a first visit?

Talk about the visit in a positive, simple way, tell us if you plan to use the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, and let us know about any worries or health conditions when you book.

Do children need X-rays?

Not always. A dentist will decide whether X-rays are clinically appropriate based on your child's age, history and risk of decay. We use digital X-rays, and our guide to dental X-ray safety explains more.

How do fissure sealants work?

A fissure sealant is a thin protective coating placed on the grooves of back teeth to help guard against decay. Your dentist will tell you whether your child's teeth suit sealants and how long they may last.

Can I bring siblings to the same appointment?

Often yes. Our Carrum Downs clinic, for example, schedules family appointments back-to-back for convenience. Ask your clinic when you book and our team will arrange times to suit where we can.

What if I cannot pay for treatment at once?

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans through Payright, subject to eligibility and approval. See our dental payment plans page for terms.

Do I need to apply for the Child Dental Benefits Schedule?

No. Services Australia states that you do not need to apply or register, and that if your child is eligible they will send you a letter. The conditions are that the child is eligible for Medicare, is aged 0 to 17 for at least one day that calendar year, and that the child or their parent, carer or guardian receives an eligible payment at least once that calendar year.

Does the schedule cover braces?

No. Services Australia lists orthodontic dental work among the services it will not cover, alongside cosmetic dental work and any dental services provided in a hospital. The benefit cannot be applied to orthodontic treatment.

Does using the schedule count towards the Medicare Safety Net?

No. Services Australia states that services claimed under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule do not count towards the threshold of either the Medicare Safety Net or the Extended Medicare Safety Net.

What happens to a balance we do not use?

It lapses at the end of the two-year period. Services Australia states that if the full amount is not used within the two calendar years, the remaining funds cannot be used and a new two-year cover period must begin. A balance also becomes unavailable once a child is no longer eligible.

Is my child eligible for public dental care in Victoria?

The Victorian Department of Health lists all children aged 0 to 12 as eligible for public dental care, without reference to a concession card. Young people aged 13 to 17 are eligible if they hold a healthcare or pensioner concession card or are dependants of a card holder. Children and young people are also listed as a priority access group, which means being offered the next available appointment rather than joining the general waiting list. Eligibility is confirmed by the public clinic, so contact a community dental service or the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne.

How can I check a paediatric dentist's specialist registration?

Paediatric dentistry is one of the 13 dental specialties in Australia approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Ahpra publishes a public register of dental practitioners which records the specialty of any dentist holding specialist registration, so you can confirm a specialist title directly at ahpra.gov.au rather than relying on how a service is described.

Related services and further reading

Why we have specialist paediatric dentists

Children's braces and Invisalign

Top tips for children's dental hygiene

5 tips to help with dental anxiety in children

CDBS and bulk bill dentistry in Melbourne

Core Dental Carrum Downs

Core Dental Caroline Springs

Core Dental Berwick

Core Dental Epping

Dental payment plans

Core Dental at a glance

Nine Core Dental clinics across Melbourne: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie.

Open six days a week, with Monday to Friday hours to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

Interest-free payment plans, HICAPS on-site claiming and bulk billing for eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Invisalign Blue Diamond provider, as stated on coredental.com.au.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16

Online booking	Book via coredental.com.au
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday 8.00am to 1.30pm (Bayside Saturday 8.30am to 1.30pm), Sunday closed
Clinics	Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick , Bayside , Glenferrie

Results, recovery times and potential risks vary for each individual. This information is general in nature and is intended for people over 18. Seek advice from a qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioner before proceeding.

What does children's dentistry at Core Dental include?

Core Dental children's dentistry includes routine check-ups, professional cleaning, fluoride treatments, fissure sealants, fillings and oral hygiene education. Children's braces and Invisalign assessments are also available, usually from around age 9 to 10.

At what age does Core Dental recommend a child's first dental visit?

We recommend a first dental appointment at two years of age. Early visits help your child become familiar with the dentist and let us look after baby teeth and check development.

Does Core Dental bulk bill children's dentistry?

Yes. Core Dental bulk bills eligible children aged 0 to 17 under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. Services Australia determines eligibility, so confirm your child's eligibility before the appointment.

Which Core Dental clinics have a specialist paediatric dentist?

Specialist Paediatric Dentists see children at Core Dental Carrum Downs and Caroline Springs (Dr Angel Babu), Berwick (Dr Sarah Scott) and Epping (Dr Aish Kesava). Sessions are limited, so confirm the next available session when you book.

How is a specialist paediatric dentist trained?

A Specialist Paediatric Dentist holds a dental degree and then a qualification in child and adolescent oral health, and must be registered as a specialist with AHPRA to use the title. The Dental Board of Australia requires a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and "a minimum of two years general dental practice"; because it sets requirements rather than a course length, we do not publish a figure for the years involved.

How does Core Dental help anxious children?

Our Core Dental team paces each visit to suit the child, explains each step in simple words, and our clinics are designed to feel calm. Some children may be suited to treatment under sedation or general anaesthetic with a specialist.

What should I do if my child has a dental emergency at Core Dental?

Call your nearest Core Dental clinic or 13 13 16 as early as you can, as we reserve emergency appointments each day wherever possible. Call 000 for uncontrolled bleeding, breathing difficulty or a serious facial injury.

How do I book a children's dental appointment at Core Dental?

Book online through coredental.com.au or call 13 13 16. Core Dental has nine clinics across Melbourne, open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.