Wisdom Tooth Removal Costs Explained | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/costs-involved-wisdom-tooth-removal/

Details:

The cost of wisdom tooth removal depends mainly on how complex the extraction is, who performs it, and whether you have local anaesthetic in the dental chair or a general anaesthetic in a hospital. Straightforward extractions are generally less involved than those for impacted teeth, and hospital treatment adds anaesthetist and facility fees. At Core Dental we examine your teeth and X-rays first, then give you a written quote before treatment starts, and interest-free payment plans are available for eligible treatment.

Why do wisdom teeth often need to be removed?

Wisdom teeth are the last adult teeth to come through, usually in the late teens or twenties. Many mouths do not have enough room for them, so they can cause pain, infection and crowding problems. A dentist may recommend removal when a wisdom tooth is causing, or is likely to cause, trouble that cannot be managed any other way. You can read more in our article on how you will know if you need your wisdom teeth removed .

What causes wisdom tooth pain?

The most common wisdom tooth problem is impaction. An impacted tooth is one that has too little room to come through properly, so it may lean sideways or stay partly under the gum. Pain and problems can come from several things.

Gum disease. When a tooth is only partly through, food collects around it and the area is hard to clean, which can lead to gum problems.

Inflammation and infection. Bacteria can build up in the gum and the soft tissue sac around a partly erupted tooth, causing swelling, a bad taste and pain.

Over-eruption. Sometimes a wisdom tooth keeps growing beyond the level of its neighbours. It can then affect your bite and may injure the cheek or surrounding teeth, because the exposed edges can be quite sharp.

If a problem tooth is left alone, these painful conditions can come back or develop. Our article on what causes wisdom tooth pain goes into this in detail.

What affects the cost of wisdom tooth removal?

There is no single price, because every mouth is different. The factors that usually affect the fee include:

How many teeth are removed. Fees are usually quoted per tooth or for a planned group of teeth.

How complex the extraction is. A tooth that has fully come through with straight roots is generally simple to remove. A tooth that is impacted, angled or close to a nerve may need a surgical approach, which takes time and skill.

Who performs the treatment. A general dentist can remove many wisdom teeth. Complex cases may be referred to a registered oral and maxillofacial surgeon.

The type of anaesthetic or sedation. Local anaesthetic in the chair is the simplest arrangement. General anaesthetic in a hospital involves a separate anaesthetist and facility.

Imaging. Your dentist may need an OPG or other X-ray to plan the extraction.

Aftercare. Review appointments, medication and any follow-up are part of the overall cost.

Fees change over time and vary between providers, so please treat any figure you read online as a guide only and ask for a current written quote. At Core Dental we quote before treatment starts so that you know what to expect.

What does the procedure involve, and which setting suits you?

Most people choose between having wisdom teeth removed in the dental chair under local anaesthetic, or having a general anaesthetic in an operating theatre. Each has advantages and drawbacks, and your dentist will talk through which one suits your health and the position of your teeth.

Removal in the chair with local anaesthetic

It causes little disruption to your routine before the appointment.

It can be a practical choice if you do not have private health cover with hospital benefits.

It suits extractions with little expected difficulty, for example when X-rays show straight roots and a clear path out.

It is the usual option for people who cannot have a general anaesthetic for medical reasons.

Some people find it confronting to be awake while the dentist works, and several team members may be in the room.

The local anaesthetic wears off after the appointment, so you should plan pain relief in advance and follow the aftercare advice we give you.

Removal under general anaesthetic

You will be asleep and will not remember the procedure.

Local anaesthetic is also given to help with pain after the operation.

A surgical team monitors you throughout.

It is only available if you meet the health checks needed for a general anaesthetic.

Recovery from the anaesthetic itself can add to your downtime.

Costs can rise if you do not have suitable private health cover, because hospital and anaesthetist fees are separate from the surgeon's fee.

What extra costs apply for general anaesthetic in hospital?

When wisdom teeth are removed under general anaesthetic in a hospital setting, the total usually includes the surgeon's fee, an anaesthetist's fee for administering and monitoring the anaesthetic, and hospital fees for the use of the facility and theatre. These extras can make a significant difference to the final total. Your surgeon's rooms and your health fund can tell you what is covered and what you may need to pay yourself.

Does health insurance cover wisdom tooth removal?

It may. Private health funds can provide rebates for wisdom tooth extraction, particularly when it is performed in hospital by a specialist surgeon, but cover depends on your fund, your level of cover and any waiting periods. If you have hospital cover, your out-of-pocket costs will depend on your policy. General dental cover may contribute to chair-side extractions. We have HICAPS on-site claiming at our clinics, and we suggest you check your policy before treatment so there are no surprises. Medicare does not usually cover most routine dental treatment, so please ask your fund and your treating practitioner what applies to you.

How can you plan for the cost?

Book an examination so your dentist can assess your teeth and arrange imaging.

Ask for a written treatment plan that lists each stage and fee.

Check your health fund cover and any waiting periods.

Ask about a payment plan. Our interest-free payment plans are available for eligible treatment, and terms depend on the provider and your eligibility, so please confirm details when you book.

What drives the cost, even though no figure is published

No authority we have read publishes a price for wisdom tooth removal, and we are not going to invent a range. What the published advice does set out is the factors that make one case simpler or more complex than another — which is what any quote is actually responding to.

Factor one: whether the teeth need removing at all. The Victorian Department of Health: "Some wisdom teeth do not cause problems and do not need to be taken out." And: "X-rays will help to tell if wisdom teeth might cause problems."

So an assessment can conclude that nothing needs doing, and imaging is part of reaching that conclusion.

Factor two: how many there are. "There are normally four wisdom teeth - two in the upper jaw and two in the lower jaw - but some people have more, fewer, or even none at all."

Factor three: impaction. "Sometimes, wisdom teeth come through at an angle and push into the gum or the tooth beside them. This is called impaction."

Factor four: the anaesthetic, which follows from the difficulty. "If your wisdom teeth need to be taken out, all you may need is a local anaesthetic so you won't feel it. If your wisdom teeth are deeply impacted (blocked from coming through) and difficult to remove, or for other medical reasons, you may be offered a general anaesthetic. Sometimes this can be done with nitrous oxide (also known as happy gas) to make it more comfortable."

A general anaesthetic involves a second clinician — "a qualified anaesthetist, who is a medical doctor with specialist training in anaesthetics, administers the general anaesthetic" — and an assessment beforehand, since "your anaesthetist will visit you before you go to theatre to assess if you are fit enough for surgery".

Factor five: who does it. "Wisdom teeth can be removed by a dentist, but may also need to be referred to an oral maxillofacial surgeon who has done additional training and study in surgery or the teeth, bones, jaws and face."

Factor six, which is about timing rather than the teeth. "The roots of wisdom teeth are still forming when you are a teenager, so it is easier to take them out at this age. It may be more complicated if you wait until later in life, when the roots are fully formed."

That is the Department's general observation about difficulty, not a recommendation for any individual — whether and when your own teeth should come out is a clinical judgement after an examination.

Sources: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Wisdom teeth, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (the page states its review date as 3 June 2022); General anaesthetics, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (the page states its review date as 30 September 2012). Both accessed 6 November 2026.

What you are entitled to be told, and the funded pathways

Two things are published and useful here: what information should come before treatment, and which public and benefit routes exist.

Before anything happens. "If there's a problem, your dentist will explain the treatment options and give you an estimate of the cost and the time it will take."

Options, and an estimate of cost and time. That is the published expectation.

Questions worth asking , from the Department's cosmetic guidance but equally applicable here: "What options are available and the pros and the cons of each option."; "What results can be reasonably expected."; "What costs, time and money, are involved and if payment options are available."; "Any possible side effects or complications."

And on private fees generally. "Private dentists and dental practitioners set their own fees, which can vary depending on the practitioner and the type of treatment required." That is also why a figure from another practice, or from a web page, is not a prediction of yours.

Public dental care, for those eligible. The Department's eligibility list includes "all children aged 0-12 years"; "young people aged 13-17 years who hold a healthcare or pensioner concession card, or who are dependants of concession card holders"; "people aged 18 years and over, who are health care or pensioner concession card holders or dependants of concession card holders"; "all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people"; and "all refugees and asylum seekers".

Public services are provided "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".

Priority access means not joining the general queue: "Victorians who have priority access to dental care are offered the next available appointment for general care. They are not placed on the general waiting list." The groups are "Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people"; "children and young people"; "people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness"; "pregnant people"; "refugees and asylum seekers"; and "people registered with mental health or disability services, who have a letter of recommendation from their case manager or a special developmental school".

Everyone else: "All other people seeking routine dental or denture care need to place their name on a waiting list." We are not going to state a waiting time, because the published material gives none.

For children and teenagers, there is a Commonwealth scheme. The Child Dental Benefits Schedule "covers some or all of the cost of basic dental treatments over a two year period for eligible children", where a child is eligible if "they are aged 0-17 years, are eligible for Medicare and you receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or another relevant Australian Government payment". Services Australia states it provides "up to $1,158 in dental benefits over 2 years for children aged from 0 to 17 years". That amount is indexed, so check the current figure with Services Australia rather than any web page. And check acceptance: the Department advises making sure "the dental clinic you attend accepts the scheme (be sure to ask the clinic about any potential copayments)".

If something goes wrong with care you have received , there is a published avenue: "If people have concerns about the dental care they are receiving, they should contact the clinic which provided the care or the Health Complaints Commissioner."

Sources: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dental treatment, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 3 June 2026); Cosmetic dentistry and teeth whitening, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 12 December 2025); Dental checks for young children, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 11 February 2026); Victorian Department of Health, Access to Victoria's public dental care services, health.vic.gov.au ; Services Australia, Child Dental Benefits Schedule - what's covered, servicesaustralia.gov.au . All accessed 6 November 2026.

Frequently asked questions

How much does wisdom tooth removal cost?

The cost depends on the number of teeth, how complex each extraction is, who performs it and the type of anaesthetic. We cannot give an accurate figure without an examination, so we quote in writing before treatment starts.

How does cost differ between chair-side and hospital removal?

Chair-side removal under local anaesthetic avoids hospital and anaesthetist fees, so it is often the simpler option for straightforward teeth. Whether it suits you depends on your health and how your teeth sit.

Why does general anaesthetic add to the cost?

A general anaesthetic involves an anaesthetist, a hospital or day surgery facility and a surgical team. Each charges separately, so the total includes those fees as well as the surgeon or dentist fee.

Will my health fund pay for wisdom tooth removal?

Many funds offer a rebate, particularly for hospital procedures, but cover depends on your policy and waiting periods. Please check with your fund before treatment, and we can help with HICAPS claiming on site.

Can I use a payment plan for wisdom tooth removal?

Interest-free payment plans are available for eligible treatment at Core Dental. Eligibility and terms vary, so please ask our team about current options when you book your appointment.

Why can nobody quote a price before seeing me?

Because the cost follows the case, and the factors are clinical. The published advice is that "private dentists and dental practitioners set their own fees, which can vary depending on the practitioner and the type of treatment required", and that "if there's a problem, your dentist will explain the treatment options and give you an estimate of the cost and the time it will take".

Do all wisdom teeth need removing?

No. "Some wisdom teeth do not cause problems and do not need to be taken out", and "x-rays will help to tell if wisdom teeth might cause problems".

How many wisdom teeth do people have?

"There are normally four wisdom teeth - two in the upper jaw and two in the lower jaw - but some people have more, fewer, or even none at all."

What makes a removal more complicated?

Impaction. "Sometimes, wisdom teeth come through at an angle and push into the gum or the tooth beside them. This is called impaction." Deeply impacted teeth may mean a general anaesthetic rather than a local one.

Does the anaesthetic change the picture?

It can. "All you may need is a local anaesthetic", but the Department adds: "If your wisdom teeth are deeply impacted (blocked from coming through) and difficult to remove, or for other medical reasons, you may be offered a general anaesthetic.". A general anaesthetic involves "a qualified anaesthetist, who is a medical doctor with specialist training in anaesthetics", and an assessment beforehand.

Who carries out the removal?

"Wisdom teeth can be removed by a dentist, but may also need to be referred to an oral maxillofacial surgeon who has done additional training and study in surgery or the teeth, bones, jaws and face."

Is it easier to have them out younger?

The Department's general observation is yes: "The roots of wisdom teeth are still forming when you are a teenager, so it is easier to take them out at this age. It may be more complicated if you wait until later in life, when the roots are fully formed." Whether and when yours should come out is a clinical judgement after an examination.

What should I ask at the consultation?

"What options are available and the pros and the cons of each option."; "What results can be reasonably expected."; "What costs, time and money, are involved and if payment options are available."; "Any possible side effects or complications."

Is there public dental care for this?

For those eligible. The Department's list includes concession or healthcare card holders aged 18 and over and their dependants, children aged 0-12, young people aged 13-17 with a card or as dependants, "all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people", and "all refugees and asylum seekers". Services run "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".

Who gets seen sooner in the public system?

Priority access groups, who "are offered the next available appointment for general care. They are not placed on the general waiting list" — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, children and young people, "people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness", "pregnant people", refugees and asylum seekers, and people registered with mental health or disability services who have a letter of recommendation.

How long is the public waiting list?

The published material gives no waiting time, so we are not going to quote one. It says only that "all other people seeking routine dental or denture care need to place their name on a waiting list".

Is there help for a teenager's treatment?

The Child Dental Benefits Schedule may apply, covering "some or all of the cost of basic dental treatments over a two year period for eligible children" aged "0-17 years" who are eligible for Medicare and whose family receives "Family Tax Benefit Part A or another relevant Australian Government payment". Services Australia states it provides "up to $1,158 in dental benefits over 2 years"; that figure is indexed, so check the current amount with Services Australia. Also check that the clinic "accepts the scheme (be sure to ask the clinic about any potential copayments)".

What if I have a concern about care I received?

"If people have concerns about the dental care they are receiving, they should contact the clinic which provided the care or the Health Complaints Commissioner."

Related services and further reading

Wisdom tooth extraction

General tooth extraction

How will I know if I need my wisdom teeth removed?

What causes wisdom tooth pain?

Recovering from wisdom tooth extraction

What's involved in a tooth extraction?

Oral and maxillofacial surgery

Sleep dentistry

How can we help?

If you think a wisdom tooth needs attention, our team can assess it at any of our nine Core Dental clinics and explain your options. Call 13 13 16 or book online. We quote before treatment starts, and we can talk you through interest-free payment plans and health fund claiming with HICAPS. Please confirm current fees and terms when you book.

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.

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online at coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday mornings, 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.

How much does a simple wisdom tooth extraction cost at Core Dental?

The fee for a simple extraction depends on the tooth and your examination findings. Core Dental gives you a written quote before treatment starts, and figures vary between patients, so please confirm the current fee when you book.

Who removes complex wisdom teeth?

Complex wisdom teeth, especially those needing general anaesthetic in hospital, may be referred to a registered oral and maxillofacial surgeon. Core Dental dentists will explain whether referral is advisable after examining you.

What problems can lead to wisdom tooth removal?

Wisdom teeth may need removal because of pain, infection or impaction caused by too little room in the jaw. Core Dental dentists assess each tooth and explain whether removal is recommended.

What extra fees apply to wisdom tooth removal in hospital?

Hospital treatment under general anaesthetic usually adds an anaesthetist fee and hospital facility fees to the surgeon fee, which can raise the total significantly. Ask your surgeon and health fund for a full breakdown.

Does private health cover help with wisdom tooth removal?

Health fund rebates may apply, especially for hospital procedures performed by a specialist, but your cover and waiting periods decide what you receive. Core Dental clinics offer HICAPS claiming on site.

What is the difference between local and general anaesthetic for extractions?

Local anaesthetic numbs the area while you stay awake in the dental chair, whereas general anaesthetic puts you to sleep in a hospital setting. Core Dental dentists discuss which option suits your health and teeth.

Does Core Dental offer payment plans for dental treatment?

Yes. Core Dental offers interest-free payment plans for eligible treatment, with terms set by the finance provider. Please confirm current terms and your eligibility with our team when you book.

How do I book a wisdom tooth assessment at Core Dental?

Call 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au for any of our nine clinics. Mention your wisdom tooth concern so we can allow time for an examination and any X-rays.