Conventional Dental Implants in Melbourne | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/dental-implants/conventional-implants/

Details:

A conventional dental implant replaces a missing tooth, or a tooth that cannot be saved, with a titanium screw placed in the jawbone, an abutment and a crown. At Core Dental our dentists plan and provide conventional implants at our practices across Melbourne, working with registered specialists where a case needs it. Implants have been used since the mid-1960s. Whether an implant suits you depends on an examination, imaging and your health, and results vary for each person.

What is a conventional dental implant?

A conventional implant is designed to look and feel like your own tooth. We can use one implant to replace a single missing tooth, or several implants to replace a whole arch of teeth. Every implant has three main components:

a titanium screw fixture, placed in the jawbone to act as an artificial tooth root

an abutment, made of ceramic or titanium, which connects the fixture to the crown

a crown, which sits on the abutment and replaces the visible part of the tooth

At Core Dental we start by listening to what you would like to achieve, then examine your teeth, gums and bite so we can explain which options are realistic for you.

How does the conventional implant process work?

The process begins with the space left by a missing tooth, or by a damaged tooth that has been removed. Your dentist then places a small titanium screw in the jawbone. Over about three to six months the screw fuses with the bone, a process called osseointegration. Once the bone has healed around the implant, an abutment is attached to the fixture for a secure fit. Finally, a porcelain crown is fitted at the gum line to replicate a natural tooth. We discuss the likely appearance and the limitations of the crown during treatment planning.

Why is titanium used for the implant screw?

Titanium is biocompatible, which means it is accepted by the body, and it integrates with bone tissue. That allows it to form a stable replacement root inside the jawbone.

How long does a conventional implant take?

Osseointegration commonly takes about three to six months after placement. The full treatment plan can take longer if extraction healing, bone grafting or other preparation is needed. The abutment and final crown are fitted when the implant and the surrounding tissues are ready, and your dentist will give you an individual estimate.

What if you do not have enough bone?

When the volume or quality of your jawbone is not adequate, we may carry out a routine procedure called bone grafting. If there is not enough bone in the upper jaw, a sinus lift may be needed. Your dentist will explain whether either step applies to you, and may involve a registered periodontist or oral and maxillofacial surgeon. You can read about these specialists on our periodontist and oral and maxillofacial surgeons pages.

Who is suitable for a conventional implant, and who may not be?

Most dentists recommend keeping your own natural teeth where that is possible, so we first check whether your tooth can be treated by other means, such as a root canal and crown. You may be suitable for an implant if a tooth is missing or cannot be saved, and your gums and jawbone are healthy enough, or can be prepared, to support it. An implant may not be advised, or may need extra preparation, if you have active gum disease, uncontrolled medical conditions, or you smoke. Bring your medical history and a current list of medicines to your appointment so your dentist can assess this properly.

What are the risks and limitations?

Implant treatment involves surgery, and every surgery carries risk. Possible issues include infection, discomfort, swelling, an implant that does not fuse with the bone, and problems with the gums around the implant. A crown can chip or loosen over time. Implants need the same daily care as natural teeth, including brushing, cleaning between teeth and regular check-ups. Your dentist will explain the material risks, the likely number of appointments and the maintenance involved before you decide.

How much do conventional implants cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the number of implants, any bone grafting or sinus lift, the materials and the clinicians involved. We do not publish a single figure, because it would not reflect your treatment. Instead we give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment starts, so you can compare stages, appointments and costs before you proceed.

We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright for amounts up to $20,000, with fortnightly instalments over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval (applicants must be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident, and provide ID, a verifiable email and a mobile number). Figures were published as at September 2026, so please confirm current terms when you book. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. Read more on our dental payment plans page.

Where can you have conventional implants at Core Dental?

Implants are listed among the services at several of our practices, including Southbank , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Berwick and Glenferrie . You can also read about dental implants at Wyndham . Call 13 13 16 and our team will tell you which practice and clinician suit your case.

Who provides conventional implants at Core Dental?

Our dentists plan and provide implant treatment, and we draw on our registered specialists when a case calls for it, for example a periodontist for gum and bone health, an oral and maxillofacial surgeon

for surgery, or a prosthodontist for complex tooth replacement. See our dentists and registered specialists page. You can check any practitioner's registration on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au.

Who is permitted to place a dental implant in Australia?

Implant placement is not restricted to a single specialty, and there is no separate implant registration. What governs it is a general standard that applies to every procedure in dentistry, and it is worth understanding because it shapes what you should ask.

The Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard applies to "all registered dental practitioners except those with student or non-practising registration", and its central requirement is short: "dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent."

Both parts matter, and they are not the same test. Education and training is formal and documentary. Competence is the practitioner's own assessment, case by case — so a procedure can fall inside someone's training in general and outside their competence for a particular patient, which is exactly the judgement a complex implant case calls for.

The standard also frames dentistry as team practice: "all dental practitioners are members of the healthcare team. They are expected to work with other members of the healthcare team to provide the best possible care and outcome for their patients." Referral is contemplated by the standard rather than being an admission of limitation. And delegation has the same boundary: a practitioner "must not direct any person whether a registered dental practitioner or not to undertake dental treatment or give advice outside that person's education or competence."

Two legal points sit behind the standard. It notes that "restricted dental acts (section 121 of the National Law) also apply to this definition" of dentistry. And on consequences, the Board states that the National Law "establishes possible consequences if you don't meet this registration standard, including that registration standards, codes or guidelines may be used in disciplinary proceedings against health practitioners as evidence of what constitutes appropriate practice or conduct for the health profession (see section 41 of the National Law)."

The standard does not name implants, or any other procedure, and we are not suggesting it does. It sets a principle. The standard is reviewed "at least every three years".

Source: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective 1 July 2020; approved by the COAG Health Council on 1 November 2019; accessed 3 November 2026).

What should you ask before implant treatment?

Because there is no implant specialty as such, the credential you might look for does not exist in that form. That makes the questions more important, not less.

Four are worth asking, and none of them should cause offence.

Who will place the implant, and who will restore it? These are frequently two different clinicians and two different stages. Knowing which is which clarifies who is responsible for what, and how the stages are sequenced.

What is their training and experience in implant placement? The scope of practice standard requires them to have satisfied themselves on this, so it is a question they have already answered internally.

What would make them refer this case rather than treat it? A clear answer indicates a considered threshold; the absence of one is itself informative.

What happens if the implant does not integrate? Implants can fail to fuse with the bone. How that is handled clinically and financially is better established before treatment.

Where a case is complex, several of the recognised specialties are relevant. The Dental Board's 13 dental specialties include oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral surgery, periodontics and prosthodontics — the surgical and reconstructive fields a complicated implant case may draw on. Ahpra's register of dental practitioners records the specialty of any dentist holding specialist registration, so you can confirm at ahpra.gov.au what a clinician's registration actually says.

Source: Dental Board of Australia, Specialist Registration, dentalboard.gov.au (page reviewed 18 March 2025; accessed 3 November 2026).

Frequently asked questions

Are dental implants painful?

Implant placement is done under anaesthetic, so you should not feel pain during the procedure. Some discomfort, swelling or bruising afterwards is common and varies between people. Your dentist will explain what to expect and how to manage it, and tell you when to contact us.

How do implants compare with other ways of replacing a tooth?

Options include a dental bridge, a denture or an implant, and each has different requirements and limits. We explain these during your consultation so you can choose with a clear picture of the steps, maintenance and costs involved.

How long does an implant last?

This varies for each person and depends on factors such as gum health, bite forces, smoking and how well the implant is cleaned. We cannot promise a particular lifespan, but regular check-ups help us monitor your implant and the tissues around it.

Can you have an implant straight after a tooth is removed?

Sometimes. Whether an implant can be placed at the time of extraction depends on the tooth, the bone and the gums. Read about this on our immediate implants page, and ask your dentist what suits you.

Can an implant replace several teeth?

Yes. Multiple implants can replace several teeth or a whole arch. Options such as All-on-4 or implant retained dentures may be discussed depending on your situation.

Is there a dental specialty in implants?

No. Implant placement is a procedure rather than one of the thirteen dental specialties recognised by the Dental Board of Australia, so there is no implant specialist registration. What governs who may place an implant is the Board's scope of practice registration standard, which requires practitioners to only perform treatment for which they have been educated and trained and in which they are competent.

Which specialties are relevant to a complex implant case?

Among the Board's thirteen recognised specialties, the surgical and reconstructive fields a complicated case may draw on are oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral surgery, periodontics and prosthodontics. The Ahpra register records the specialty of any dentist holding specialist registration.

Can a general dentist place an implant?

The scope of practice standard does not restrict any procedure to a specialty. It requires that the practitioner has been educated and trained in the treatment and is competent in it, and competence is assessed case by case. That is why asking about a clinician's training and experience with implant placement is a reasonable question.

Which questions matter most at an implant consultation?

Who will place the implant and who will restore it, since these are often different clinicians and stages; what their training and experience in placement is; what would make them refer a case rather than treat it; and what happens clinically and financially if the implant does not integrate with the bone.

Does the scope of practice standard mention implants?

No. It sets a general principle covering all dental treatment and does not name implants or any other procedure. The Board reviews the standard at least every 3 years.

Related services and further reading

Dental implants

Immediate implants

All-on-4 dental implants

Implant retained dentures

Dental bridges

All about dental implants

Does smoking affect dental implants?

Prosthodontist

Dental payment plans

Understanding your treatment

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: Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday mornings.

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

We quote before treatment starts.

Call 13 13 16 or book online.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online through your practice page at coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
Hours	Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm, Saturday 8.00am to 1.30pm, Sunday closed
Clinics	Find your nearest practice

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 is a conventional dental implant at Core Dental?

A conventional implant at Core Dental is a titanium screw placed in the jawbone as an artificial tooth root, with an abutment and a crown on top. We use it to replace a missing tooth or a tooth that cannot be saved.

What are the three parts of a conventional implant?

At Core Dental we explain that an implant has three parts: a titanium screw fixture in the jawbone, an abutment made of ceramic or titanium that attaches to it, and a crown that sits on the abutment.

How long does a conventional implant take to fuse with the jaw?

Osseointegration, where the titanium screw fuses with the jawbone, commonly takes about three to six months. Core Dental dentists give an individual estimate, as bone grafting or extraction healing can extend the overall treatment time.

Does Core Dental do bone grafting for implants?

Yes. When your jawbone volume or quality is not adequate, our dentists may carry out bone grafting, or a sinus lift when there is not enough bone in the upper jaw. Core Dental dentists explain whether this applies to you.

Which Core Dental clinics list implants as a service?

Implants are listed at Core Dental Southbank, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Berwick and Glenferrie, and we also write about implants at Wyndham. Call 13 13 16 to confirm the practice and clinician for your case.

Can I pay for conventional implants in instalments at Core Dental?

Core Dental offers Payright interest-free plans for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, with fortnightly instalments, subject to eligibility and approval. Terms were published as at September 2026, so please confirm them when you book.

Do Core Dental dentists always recommend an implant?

No. Most dentists, including our team at Core Dental, prefer to keep your natural teeth when that is possible. We recommend an implant only where a tooth is missing or cannot be saved, after examining you.

How do I book an implant consultation at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through your preferred practice page at coredental.com.au. Bring your medical history and a list of your medicines so your dentist can assess your suitability.