Implant Retained Dentures in Melbourne | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/dentures/implant-retained-dentures/

Details:

An implant retained denture is a denture that is secured to dental implants instead of resting directly on the gums. At Core Dental we plan implant retained dentures for people who are missing a full arch of teeth and want a denture that stays in place during eating and speaking. Treatment usually involves a dentist and may involve an oral and maxillofacial surgeon and a prosthodontist. Suitability depends on your bone, your health and an examination, and results vary for each person.

What are implant retained dentures?

Dental implants are one option for replacing a missing tooth or a series of missing teeth, and they may be used as an alternative to a bridge or a denture. A denture is a plate or framework that supports one or more artificial teeth. It is made from acrylic or cobalt chrome and can either be removable or be fixed in place using a series of implants. A fixed denture of this kind is called an implant retained denture.

Instead of resting directly on the gums, an implant retained denture is secured to implants that have fused with the jawbone. Each implant acts very much like the root of a natural tooth. This is designed to give the denture stability and to reduce movement during everyday activities such as eating and speaking.

What problem are implant retained dentures designed to solve?

Adult teeth can be lost in many ways, including accidental trauma, infection or poor health of the surrounding gums. Replacing a tooth, or a series of teeth, may have long-term functional benefits for chewing, speaking clearly and maintaining good jaw health. From an appearance point of view, replacing missing teeth can also fill the spaces in a smile.

Implant retained dentures are intended to replace a full arch of missing teeth. They are designed to stay in place during daily activities without being taken out for cleaning, unlike a traditional removable denture.

How do implant retained dentures compare with conventional dentures?

Conventional dentures rest on the gums. Over time they may loosen or shift, and they are removed for cleaning. An implant retained denture is secured by implants and is designed to have little movement. The replacement teeth can also be customised for length, width, alignment and shade, which can help you achieve a natural-looking result.

The treatment cost is typically higher than for conventional removable dentures, because dental implants are required. For this reason implant retained dentures may not suit people who are price sensitive. We explain the costs in a written quote before treatment starts so you can compare your options. You can read more in our guides on dentures or implants for seniors and permanent denture options .

Are implant retained dentures suitable for you?

Treatment with implants is most suitable when the underlying jaw has enough bone density to support the implants securely. If it does not, bone grafting surgery may be needed to correct this before implants are placed.

Implants may be unsuitable, or may need extra planning, in cases of low bone density such as osteopenia or osteoporosis, in the presence of diabetes, or where an implant would be likely to contact the sinuses. An oral and maxillofacial surgeon can often plan around these issues, and will often work with a prosthodontist, who creates the denture component. Because this treatment is complex, we involve specialists where the case calls for it. This approach can add to the cost, which is one reason we give you a written plan first.

What is the procedure for implant retained dentures?

The steps depend on your situation. In general they are:

A thorough investigation of your medical and dental health, including assessment of your bone density and your sinuses.

Preparation of the area where teeth are missing, and treatment of the surrounding gums to make sure they are healthy.

Placement of a series of implants, which are titanium screws, followed by impressions or digital records that serve as the blueprint to make your new denture.

Fitting of your denture once your treatment plan allows. Timing depends on your case, and your dentist will explain the stages and the healing time.

Over time your implants fuse with the surrounding bone. Your dentist will explain what to expect at each stage and when you will need review appointments.

What are the risks and limits?

Implant treatment is a surgical procedure. Risks include infection, swelling, bleeding, discomfort during healing and an implant that does not fuse with the bone. A denture can wear, chip or need adjustment or replacement over time. The tissues around implants need careful cleaning and regular check-ups, because they can become inflamed or infected. Your dentist will explain the material risks, the likely maintenance and the alternatives before you decide. Our guide on maintenance involved in having dentures explains daily care in more detail.

How much does treatment cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the number of implants, any bone grafting, the type of denture and the clinicians involved. We provide a written treatment plan and quote before treatment starts. We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright at 0% interest with fortnightly instalments over 3 to 30 months for plans up to $20,000, subject to eligibility and approval. Applicants must be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident, and have identification and a verifiable email and mobile. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. Terms were published as at September 2026, so please confirm them when you book.

Where can you have implant retained dentures at Core Dental?

Implants are listed on the clinic pages for Southbank , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Berwick and Glenferrie , and Glenferrie also lists dentures. Call 13 13 16 and we will help you choose the practice that suits your treatment and let you know how to arrange specialist input.

Who provides implant retained dentures at Core Dental?

Our general dentists assess your needs and coordinate your plan. We can involve an oral and maxillofacial surgeon to place implants in complex cases, a prosthodontist to create the denture, and a periodontist to care for the gums. Specialist availability varies by practice, so confirm it when you book. You can check any practitioner's registration on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au.

What public denture options exist in Victoria?

Implant-retained dentures are among the more expensive treatments in dentistry, so it is worth knowing what the public system covers before deciding what is affordable.

The Victorian Department of Health provides public dental services "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."

Denture care is handled on its own track within that system. The department explains that where a person with priority access "has denture care needs, then they will be offered the next available appointment for denture care or placed on the priority denture waiting list." Everyone else "seeking routine dental or denture care need to place their name on a waiting list." So there is a denture-specific queue, and whether you join the general or the priority version depends on your circumstances rather than on your treatment.

Priority access is given to 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.

Eligibility is a separate test from priority. For adults, the department lists as eligible "people aged 18 years and over, who are health care or pensioner concession card holders or dependants of concession card holders", and separately all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all refugees and asylum seekers regardless of card status.

The department also runs a denture-specific voucher scheme. It delivers some public care through private clinics under three schemes, one of which is the Victorian Denture Scheme (VDS) , and it states that the Royal Dental Hospital and community dental clinics "have detailed information about how private dental clinicians may access these schemes." A public clinic is therefore the place to ask whether a voucher applies to you.

Two limits on what we can tell you. We cannot confirm your eligibility — that assessment belongs to the public clinic — and we cannot quote a waiting time, because the department does not publish one. Nothing here establishes that this practice participates in any voucher scheme.

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).

Who may provide this kind of treatment?

Implant-retained denture treatment has two halves — the surgical placement of the implants and the prosthetic work that sits on them — and they are often done by different clinicians.

There is no implant specialty, so no practitioner holds specialist registration in implants as such. What governs who may do the work is the Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard, which requires that "dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent." Competence there is assessed for the particular case, not held as a general credential.

Among the Board's thirteen recognised specialties, the one concerned with the prosthetic half is prosthodontics — the specialty of restoring and replacing teeth. Specialist registration in it requires a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and a minimum of two years general dental practice. Ahpra's register records the specialty of any dentist with specialist registration, and can be checked at ahpra.gov.au.

The practical question to ask is which clinician is responsible for which half, and what happens at the handover between them. On a treatment that runs over months, that is usually more informative than any single credential.

Sources: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective 1 July 2020); Dental Board of Australia, Specialist Registration, dentalboard.gov.au (page reviewed 18 March 2025). Both accessed 3 November 2026.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between an implant retained denture and a removable denture?

A removable denture rests on the gums and is taken out for cleaning. An implant retained denture is secured to dental implants and is designed to stay in place during eating and speaking. Your dentist will explain which type suits your jaw, health and budget.

Do implant retained dentures replace a full arch of teeth?

Yes, they are intended to replace a full arch of missing teeth. If you are missing only one tooth or a few teeth, other options such as an implant with a crown or a bridge may be reasonable, and your dentist will explain them.

Will I need bone grafting before implant retained dentures?

Possibly. Implants need enough bone density to hold them securely. If your jaw does not have enough, bone grafting surgery may be recommended first. An examination and imaging will show whether grafting is likely to be needed.

What might rule someone out of this treatment?

Implants may be unsuitable or need extra planning if you have low bone density, diabetes or a position close to the sinuses. A surgeon can often plan around these issues, so ask your dentist for an assessment of your own situation.

Are implant retained dentures more expensive than removable dentures?

Treatment costs are typically higher than for conventional removable dentures, because implants are required. We provide a written quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans, subject to eligibility and approval.

Is there a separate public waiting list for dentures in Victoria?

Yes. The Victorian Department of Health states that a person with priority access who has denture care needs is offered the next available appointment for denture care or placed on the priority denture waiting list, while everyone else seeking routine dental or denture care joins a waiting list.

Is there a Victorian voucher scheme for dentures?

The department delivers some public care through private clinics under three schemes, one of which is the Victorian Denture Scheme. It states that the Royal Dental Hospital and community dental clinics hold the detailed information on these schemes, so a public clinic is where to ask whether a voucher applies to you. Nothing on this page establishes that this practice participates in one.

Am I eligible for public denture care as an adult?

The department lists people aged 18 and over as eligible where they hold a health care or pensioner concession card, or are dependants of a card holder. Separately, and regardless of card status, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and all refugees and asylum seekers are eligible. Eligibility is assessed by the public clinic.

How long is the public wait?

We cannot tell you, because the Victorian Department of Health does not publish a waiting time. Contact a community dental clinic or the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne to ask about your own position.

Is there a specialty for implant work?

No. Implant placement is a procedure, not one of the thirteen specialties recognised by the Dental Board of Australia. Among those specialties, prosthodontics is the one concerned with restoring and replacing teeth, which is the prosthetic half of this treatment. Who may do the work is governed by the Board's requirement that practitioners only perform treatment for which they have been educated and trained and in which they are competent.

Who is responsible for which part of my treatment?

Worth asking directly, because the surgical placement and the prosthetic work are often done by different clinicians. On treatment that runs over months, knowing who holds responsibility at each stage, and what happens at the handover, matters more than any single credential.

Related services and further reading

Dentures

Dental bridges

Dental implants

Conventional implants

All-on-4 dental implants

Dentures or implants for seniors

Maintenance involved in having dentures

Prosthodontics

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: 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.

Call 13 13 16 or book online.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Booking	Online through coredental.com.au, or call 13 13 16
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	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 an implant retained denture at Core Dental?

At Core Dental an implant retained denture is a denture secured to dental implants rather than resting on the gums. It is intended to replace a full arch of missing teeth and to stay in place during eating and speaking.

Who is suitable for implant retained dentures at Core Dental?

Suitability depends on an examination and imaging. We look for enough bone density in the jaw, and we plan carefully if you have low bone density, diabetes or a position close to the sinuses. Bone grafting may be recommended first.

Which specialists can be involved in Core Dental implant retained dentures?

We can involve an oral and maxillofacial surgeon to place implants in complex cases and a prosthodontist to create the denture. Our general dentists coordinate the plan. Specialist availability varies by practice, so confirm it when you book.

What are the steps for an implant retained denture at Core Dental?

The steps are an investigation of your medical and dental health and bone, preparation of the area and gums, placement of implants and impressions, then fitting of your denture. Timing depends on your

case and healing.

Do implant retained dentures need removing for cleaning at Core Dental?

Implant retained dentures are designed to stay in place during daily activities. You still need careful cleaning around the implants and regular check-ups. Your Core Dental dentist will explain the care routine that suits your type of denture.

How much do implant retained dentures cost at Core Dental?

Costs are typically higher than for conventional removable dentures because implants are required. Fees depend on the number of implants, any grafting and the clinicians involved. We provide a written quote before treatment starts, with no obligation to proceed.

Does Core Dental offer payment plans for implant retained dentures?

Yes. We offer interest-free Payright plans at 0% interest for up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval. Terms were published as at September 2026, so confirm them when you book.

How do I book an implant retained denture consultation at Core Dental?

Call us on 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. Tell our team that you are interested in implant retained dentures, and we will arrange an examination so a dentist can explain your options.