General Dentist Graduate Program | Core Dental

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/general-dentist-2022-graduate-program/

Details:

Our general dentist graduate program was published as the 2023 program. It is archived information from a past year and does not confirm a current intake, application window or role. The program was designed to support recent dental graduates as they begin their careers, with an extensive clinical induction, a tailored ongoing support program and multiple clinical mentors across general and specialty departments. Ask us on 13 13 16 about the current program.

What is our graduate program for general dentists?

Our graduate program is a structured way for recent dental graduates to begin their professional careers in a supportive environment. We have refined it over many years because we want early-career dentists to feel guided as they build their skills and confidence. The program was described as well established for recent graduate clinicians, and it forms part of how we welcome new dentists to the group.

What mentorship and support do graduate dentists receive?

Graduate dentists in our program receive an extensive clinical induction and a tailored ongoing support program. They work with multiple clinical mentors across both our general and specialty departments, so they can ask experienced practitioners for advice on real cases. Beyond the graduate program, we hold group-wide regular clinical lectures, courses and tuitions in our training facility centre for all of our clinicians.

What multidisciplinary experience can graduate dentists gain?

Graduates work alongside experienced general dentists and dental specialists, which helps them develop complex treatment planning skills. We support a wide choice of treatment modalities to suit individual skill sets and interests. Our clinical team consists of dentists, hygienists and registered specialists, and our practices also have management, reception and nursing teams.

How is the program paced?

We describe the program as one where graduates can work at their own pace, with self-directed appointment times that allow room for individual growth and development. Pace and appointment structure at a given clinic can differ, so please ask about the arrangements at the location you are considering.

What is our team culture like?

Our social team organises events through the year, including rooftop parties, cinema nights, formal dinners and informal drinks, so there is usually a gathering on the horizon to relax with colleagues. Our graduate program sits within a family-owned group focused on patient centred care that is tailored to the needs of each patient, and a centralised marketing team works to introduce new patients to our practices.

Where would you work?

Our practices are fitted dental suites across Melbourne. We now have nine clinics: Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick , Bayside and Glenferrie . The original program page referred to eight practices, and our group has grown since then. Clinic locations available to graduates vary, so ask us when you enquire.

How do you apply or ask about current opportunities?

To discuss opportunities, call us on 13 13 16 or use our contact page and let us know you are enquiring about graduate roles. It helps to include your CV, your cover letter and your registration details. Dentists in Australia practise under registration with the Dental Board of Australia, and registration can be checked on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au. Please check our careers page and confirm requirements and dates before relying on any details here.

Scope of practice: the rule a new dentist works inside

Every registered practitioner in Australia works inside one published rule, and for a recent graduate it is the rule that shapes the first few years more than any other.

The Dental Board of Australia's scope of practice registration standard: "Dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent."

Two conditions, both required. Educated and trained, and competent.

Who it applies to. "This registration standard applies to all registered dental practitioners except those with student or non-practising registration."

And it is individual, not categorical. The Board's guidance on divisions makes the consequence explicit: "Your scope of practice depends on your education, qualifications, training, experience, and competence. This means that even within a division, your scope may vary from another practitioner's. You should not rely on your scope being the same as a colleagues, as your training, experience and competence may be different from theirs."

For a graduate, that is the honest framing of early practice: scope is something you build, and it is not conferred by the qualification alone.

What the standard does not do. It does not list which procedures require which training. The Board's position is a principle rather than a schedule, and the "definition of dentistry" and division descriptions sit in separate Guidelines for scope of practice, which we have not read and will not characterise.

On working with others. "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." And: "All dental practitioners are expected to practise within the definition of dentistry and their dental practitioner division."

On directing colleagues, which matters as soon as anyone works in a team. "A dental 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."

That cuts both ways for a new graduate: you should not be directed beyond your own competence, and you must not direct anyone else beyond theirs.

It also cross-references the law. "Restricted dental acts (section 121 of the National Law) also apply to this definition."

And the standard is reviewed. "This registration standard will be revised at least every three years." It took effect from 1 July 2020, was last reviewed in November 2019, and was approved by the COAG Health Council on 1 November 2019.

Sources: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective from 1 July 2020; last reviewed November 2019); Dental hygienist, dental therapist and oral health therapist, dentalboard.gov.au (the page states it was reviewed 18/03/2025). Both accessed 6 November 2026.

How scope grows, and what a graduate can ask for

If scope follows education, training, experience and competence, then a graduate role is useful in proportion to how much of each it provides. The published framework suggests what to look for.

Continuing professional development is a registration requirement, not an extra. The Board lists "meeting the recency of practice, the continuing professional development (CPD) and the English language skills requirements" among what registration requires, alongside "appropriate professional indemnity insurance".

There are formal endorsements to work towards. Conscious sedation is one: the Board states that only dentists "whose registration is endorsed for conscious sedation can use this technique in their practice". It is a registration endorsement rather than a specialty — a distinct route from the thirteen.

And the specialties themselves have a general-practice prerequisite. "Completed a minimum of two years general dental practice (this requirement may be achieved by experience outside Australia, subject to assessment and approval by the Board), and met all other requirements for general registration as a dentist."

So the first two years are not a waiting period. They are the published entry condition for every one of the thirteen specialties, which the Board lists as "dento-maxillofacial radiology", "endodontics", "forensic odontology", "oral and maxillofacial surgery", "oral medicine", "oral and maxillofacial pathology", "oral surgery", "orthodontics", "paediatric dentistry", "periodontics", "prosthodontics", "public health dentistry (community dentistry)" and "special needs dentistry".

The breadth a general role should cover, judging from what the published advice says a check-up involves. Taking a general health and medication history, because "many health conditions have an effect on your oral health and vice versa". Examining each tooth "using small instruments, such as a mirror and probe". Checking soft tissues "for signs of oral cancer and other possible problems", and possibly "jaw joints and the lymph nodes in your neck". Deciding when "x-rays may be needed", for example for "possible decay between two touching teeth, or an infection". And explaining options: "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."

Procedures a general practitioner is described as doing. "All dentists are trained to carry out root canal treatments", with complicated and emergency cases sometimes referred to an endodontist. "Orthodontic treatment is provided by an orthodontist, and some dentists." "Wisdom teeth can be removed by a dentist, but may also need to be referred to an oral maxillofacial surgeon." Dentures "can be made for you by a dentist, dental prosthetist (advanced dental technician) or specialist prosthodontist."

Referral appears in the published advice as a normal part of general practice rather than a limitation — which is worth knowing when judging whether a role gives you a sensible mix.

And the public register is where all of this becomes visible. "Ahpra publishes an online register of all dental practitioners that provides the profession and the public with up-to-date information about a dental practitioner's registration status. This register also includes details of the specialty or specialties for dentists who hold specialist registration."

Sources: Dental Board of Australia, Scope of practice registration standard, dentalboard.gov.au (effective from 1 July 2020); Specialist Registration, dentalboard.gov.au (the page states it was reviewed 18/03/2025); Dental hygienist, dental therapist and oral health therapist, dentalboard.gov.au (the page states it was reviewed 18/03/2025); Conscious sedation, dentalboard.gov.au ; Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dental treatment, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 3 June 2026); Root canal treatment, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 14 July 2025); Orthodontic treatment, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 15 December 2025); Wisdom teeth, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (the page states its review date as 3 June 2022); Dentures, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 4 August 2026). All accessed 6 November 2026.

Frequently asked questions

Does this page confirm a current graduate intake?

No. Our program details were published for 2023, so they are archived information. Please contact us on 13 13 16 to ask about the current intake, application window and requirements.

Do you provide training beyond the formal graduate program?

Yes. Group-wide regular clinical lectures, courses and tuitions are held in our training facility centre, and they are available for all of our clinicians, not only graduates.

Which opportunities exist to work with specialists?

Graduate dentists work alongside experienced general dentists and dental specialists, which helps them develop complex treatment planning skills. Our mentors span both general and specialty departments.

Can graduates work at their own pace?

Our program has been described as allowing graduates to work at their own pace, with self-directed appointment times for individual growth. Please ask about arrangements at your preferred clinic when you enquire.

What is the scope of practice rule?

The Dental Board of Australia's standard: "Dental practitioners must only perform dental treatment: a. for which they have been educated and trained, and b. in which they are competent."

Who does it apply to?

"This registration standard applies to all registered dental practitioners except those with student or non-practising registration."

Is scope the same for everyone with the same qualification?

No. "Your scope of practice depends on your education, qualifications, training, experience, and competence", and "even within a division, your scope may vary from another practitioner's".

Does the standard list which procedures need which training?

No. It states a principle rather than a schedule. The "definition of dentistry" and division descriptions sit in separate Guidelines for scope of practice, which we have not read and will not characterise.

Can a senior colleague ask me to do something beyond my training?

The standard addresses that directly: "A dental 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."

Is working with other health professionals part of the expectation?

Yes. "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."

What happens if the standard is not met?

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)".

Is continuing education optional?

No — it is part of registration. The Board lists "the continuing professional development (CPD)" among what registration requires, alongside indemnity insurance, recency of practice and English language skills.

What formal steps can I work towards?

Specialist registration in one of the thirteen specialties, which requires "a minimum of two years general dental practice" first; or an endorsement such as conscious sedation, where only dentists "whose registration is endorsed for conscious sedation can use this technique in their practice".

What should a broad general role cover?

Judging from what the published advice says a check-up involves: a general health and medication history, examining each tooth "using small instruments, such as a mirror and probe", checking soft tissues "for signs of oral cancer and other possible problems", deciding when "x-rays may be needed", and explaining options with "an estimate of the cost and the time it will take".

Which procedures do general dentists do?

"All dentists are trained to carry out root canal treatments"; "orthodontic treatment is provided by an orthodontist, and some dentists"; "wisdom teeth can be removed by a dentist, but may also need to be referred to an oral maxillofacial surgeon"; and dentures "can be made for you by a dentist, dental prosthetist (advanced dental technician) or specialist prosthodontist".

Is referring a case a sign of limited ability?

The published advice treats it as normal practice for complex cases rather than a limitation — some dentists "will refer complicated and emergency cases to an endodontist once your tooth has been assessed".

Related services and further reading

Dental careers at Core Dental

2024 graduate program

Our dentists and registered specialists

Specialist care at Core Dental

The Core Dental ambience

Contact Core Dental

Core Dental Berwick

Core Dental Wyndham

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 and bulk billing for eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

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

Call 13 13 16 or book online.

Contact Core Dental

Phone	13 13 16
Online booking	Book Now at 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 did the Core Dental 2023 graduate program offer?

The program offered recent dental graduates an extensive clinical induction, a tailored ongoing support program and multiple clinical mentors across Core Dental's general and specialty departments. It was described as supporting graduates as they begin their careers.

Is the Core Dental 2023 graduate program open for applications?

Our published details are archived information about a past program and does not confirm a current intake or application window. Please call Core Dental on 13 13 16 to ask about the current graduate program.

Where is clinical training held for Core Dental dentists?

Core Dental holds group-wide regular clinical lectures, courses and tuitions in its training facility centre for all clinicians, including graduate dentists, in addition to the mentoring that the graduate program provides.

What social events does the Core Dental team hold?

Core Dental's social team has organised rooftop parties, cinema nights, formal dinners and informal drinks, so colleagues have regular chances to relax together outside of clinical work.

How many clinics does Core Dental have for graduates to work in?

Core Dental now has nine clinics: Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie. Which locations are available to graduates varies, so ask when you enquire.

How do I enquire about graduate dentist roles at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or use the contact page and say you are enquiring about graduate dentist roles. Include your CV, cover letter and registration details so we can respond.

Who mentors graduate dentists at Core Dental?

Graduate dentists work with multiple clinical mentors across Core Dental's general and specialty departments, including experienced general dentists and dental specialists, who help them build complex treatment planning skills.