General Dentistry Across Melbourne | Core Dental

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

Details:

General dentistry at Core Dental is a suite of dental services offered with flexible opening hours, so the whole family can be treated in one trip to the dentist. That saves time and effort and supports continuity of care. Our services include check-ups, hygiene and professional cleans, fillings and restorations, root canal therapy, tooth extractions, wisdom teeth removal, emergency dentistry, sport mouthguards and preventive care. We have nine clinics across Melbourne, open Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings.

What is general dentistry at Core Dental?

General dentistry is the everyday care that keeps your teeth and gums healthy, and the first step when something is wrong. At Core Dental our dentists look after adults and children, and we work with our hygienists and therapists, and with our registered specialists when a case needs extra input. Because our practices are open six days a week, you can usually find a time that fits around work, school and family. Recommendations always depend on an individual examination, and results vary for each person.

Which general dentistry services do we provide?

Dental check-ups and the no gap dental check-up

Dental hygiene and professional cleaning

Fillings and restorations

Root canal therapy

Tooth extractions and wisdom tooth extraction

Emergency dentistry

Sport mouthguards

Preventive care, including oral hygiene consultations, gum assessments, cavity assessments and fissure sealant treatments

How long does a dental check-up take?

A comprehensive oral examination, which is a thorough assessment of your whole mouth, typically takes 30 minutes to 1 hour. At Core Dental your dentist checks your teeth, gums and bite, may request imaging when it is clinically appropriate, and explains what they find and which options suit you.

How often should you have a professional clean?

Professional cleaning, which includes scaling and polishing to maintain tooth and gum health, is commonly recommended every six months. Your dentist or hygienist will tailor the interval to your own

oral health risks, because the right schedule is not identical for every patient. Our dental hygiene page explains more.

What kind of fillings do we use?

We use tooth-coloured composite resin fillings to repair damaged or decayed teeth. Your dentist will explain what a filling is intended to achieve, whether there are alternatives, and what aftercare involves. You can read more on our fillings and restorations page and our fillings FAQs .

What if you have a dental emergency?

Call 000 immediately for uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, serious facial injury or other life-threatening symptoms. Do not wait for a dental appointment in these situations. For severe tooth pain or swelling without these signs, call us promptly on 13 13 16 or your practice. We reserve emergency appointments daily where possible. See our emergency dentistry page.

How do you plan your care with us?

A useful first step is to tell us your concern, symptoms, timing and goals when you book. Bring relevant medical information and a current list of your medicines. Your dentist will assess your teeth, gums, bite and surrounding tissues, explain which options are suitable, and discuss what each approach involves and any risks or limitations. A written treatment plan lets you compare stages, appointments and payment arrangements before you proceed. Read more in understanding your treatment .

How much does general dentistry cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the treatment, its complexity and the clinicians involved. We avoid surprises by quoting before treatment starts. 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 (18 or over, Australian permanent resident, ID, a verifiable email and a mobile number). Terms were published as at September 2026, so please confirm them when you book. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and we bulk bill eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. Our dental payment plans page has details.

Where can you have general dentistry at Core Dental?

Every Core Dental clinic provides general dentistry: Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick , Bayside and Glenferrie . Call 13 13 16 to find the practice that suits you, or book online through your practice page.

Who provides general dentistry at Core Dental?

Our general dentists provide your day-to-day care, supported by our dental hygienists and therapists, nurses and reception teams. When your treatment needs more input, our registered specialists are part of our planning. Meet our clinicians on our dentists and registered specialists page, and check any practitioner on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au.

Why does prevention sit at the centre of general dentistry?

The adage that prevention is better than cure is nowhere more relevant than in general dentistry.

Routine maintenance of your oral health and early correction of any problems will significantly reduce the need for major treatment later in life, along with the increased costs and the inconvenience of multiple trips to the dentist that major treatment brings. Routine check-ups and cleans are among the most effective ways to maintain healthy teeth and gums and fresh breath, and to reduce the risk of dental emergencies and costly treatment later on.

We understand the importance of looking after your teeth and maintaining good oral hygiene, and most of what we do in general dentistry is aimed at keeping small problems small.

Who are our general dentists, and how do referrals work?

Our team of general dentists has a wealth of experience and a wide range of dental skills and interests, which they expand through ongoing clinical training and education.

They also work alongside colleagues who offer cosmetic treatment and specialist services. That matters practically rather than just organisationally: it makes the referral process simpler, because the clinician you already see can hand your case across within the same group, with your records and imaging already in place, rather than sending you out to find someone yourself. You can read about our cosmetic dentistry and specialist care , and check any practitioner's registration at ahpra.gov.au.

What does a dental hygienist do beyond a scale and clean?

More than most people expect, and the educational part is arguably the most valuable.

Apart from scale and clean treatment, dental hygienists are qualified to treat gum disease. They are also qualified to show you how best to care for your own teeth and gums at home, which is the part of your oral health that no six-monthly appointment can substitute for. Dental hygienists are registered in their own division with the Dental Board of Australia, and you can confirm any hygienist's registration at ahpra.gov.au.

Which problems count as dental emergencies?

Dental emergencies can take several forms, including toothache, a chipped or dislodged tooth, bleeding from the gums or, in very rare cases, dislocation of the temporomandibular joint, which is the jaw joint.

In all cases, prompt review by your dentist is key to the best possible outcome. It also avoids permanent damage and the need for more extensive, and more expensive, treatment later on. Where there is uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, or serious facial injury, call 000 rather than waiting for a dental appointment.

When is a filling the right treatment, and what causes cavities?

Fillings are most suitable for correcting mild to moderate problems. They are a solution to fill a cavity, meaning a hole in a tooth, to protect a damaged tooth, or to rebuild a chipped tooth.

Common causes of cavities and of damage that needs filling include:

tooth decay from bacteria that has gained access to the tooth

enamel loss due to wear and abrasion

crack lines caused by a heavy bite or by grinding

broken or lost existing fillings

Where the damage is beyond what a filling can hold, the conversation moves to a crown, root canal therapy or extraction instead, and your dentist will explain which applies and why.

Why do we try to save a tooth with root canal therapy?

Because in most cases, when a tooth is compromised, it is preferable to save the tooth if that is at all possible.

The inner part of the tooth, known as the pulp, consists of sensitive nerves and blood vessels. In the event of infection or inflammation, the pulp can become very painful, and if left untreated it can allow an abscess to form at the root tip, or even allow bacteria to enter the jaw bone. The purpose of root canal therapy is to remove the affected pulp in order to save the tooth and prevent the bacteria from spreading further.

Keeping a natural tooth preserves the bone around it and the way your bite meets, which is why saving a tooth is usually the first option considered rather than the last.

When is extraction the better option?

While it is preferable to save a tooth rather than extract it, extraction is the more suitable course where the tooth is beyond saving. That generally means one of the following applies:

restoration with a filling is unlikely to last

there is insufficient tooth structure to attach a crown

the tooth is very likely to fall out in the long term

Your dentist will explain the reasoning in your case, and what the options are for replacing the tooth afterwards if replacement is appropriate.

What are wisdom teeth, and when do they cause trouble?

Our rear teeth are known as the third molars, and most people have four of these, two upper and two lower. They are the last teeth to erupt in the mouth, usually emerging between the ages of 16 and 23, which is where the popular term wisdom teeth comes from.

Not everyone has them. Some people are born without any wisdom teeth, or with fewer than four.

Most of us have enough room in our mouths for wisdom teeth to erupt normally, in line with the other teeth. In those cases wisdom teeth function the same as our other molars and will not require any treatment. Wisdom teeth only become impacted when there is insufficient gum space for normal eruption. An impacted wisdom tooth is one that grows out at an angle, or does not fully emerge from the gum line, and it is that situation, rather than the presence of wisdom teeth as such, that leads to a discussion about removal.

Why do we recommend a custom mouthguard for sport?

Dental-related sporting injuries can have long-term consequences for the teeth and the surrounding tissue. The impact to an unprotected jaw can also cause concussion and traumatic injury to the brain.

The vast majority of these injuries can be avoided through the use of a custom-fitted mouthguard, designed to fit the athlete's own teeth and gums. At Core Dental we produce custom-fitted dual-laminated mouthguards, which absorb shock and stabilise the head and neck by limiting the movement caused by a direct hit to the jaw.

A custom-fitted mouthguard offers considerably better protection than a boil-and-bite guard bought over the counter, because it is made to the shape of your own teeth and stays in place under impact. No mouthguard prevents every injury. See our sport mouthguards page for how they are made and fitted.

Frequently asked questions

Can the whole family see the dentist at the same time?

Yes, that is one reason we offer flexible hours. Our dentists treat adults and children, so family members can often book together at the same practice. Call us on 13 13 16 and tell us who needs to be seen so we can arrange suitable appointments.

What is a no gap check-up?

A no gap check-up is a check-up and clean with no out-of-pocket cost for eligible patients with private health cover that includes dental, depending on their level of cover. Read the terms on our no gap dental check-up page and confirm eligibility when you book.

Are children's check-ups bulk billed?

We bulk bill eligible children aged 0 to 17 under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule. Eligibility is determined by the Schedule, so please check it when you book. See our children's dentistry page for details.

Do you offer same-day appointments for dental pain?

We reserve emergency appointments daily where possible, so call your practice or 13 13 16 as early as you can. If you have symptoms such as uncontrollable bleeding or trouble breathing, call 000 first.

Can I claim on the spot with my health fund?

HICAPS on-site claiming is available at our clinics, so eligible patients can claim at the practice. The rebate depends on your own health fund cover, so check your level of cover with your fund.

Does everyone have wisdom teeth?

No. Most people have four third molars, two upper and two lower, but some people are born without any or with fewer than four. Where there is enough room for them to erupt in line with the other teeth, they function like any other molar and need no treatment.

What makes a wisdom tooth impacted?

Insufficient gum space for normal eruption. An impacted wisdom tooth is one that grows out at an angle or does not fully emerge from the gum line. It is the impaction, not the wisdom tooth itself, that leads to a discussion about removal.

Is a custom mouthguard better than one from a shop?

For protection, yes. A custom-fitted mouthguard is made to the shape of your own teeth and gums, so it stays in place under impact and spreads the force, which a boil-and-bite guard does less reliably. No mouthguard prevents every injury.

Can a hygienist treat gum disease?

Yes. Dental hygienists are qualified to treat gum disease as well as to perform scaling and cleaning, and to show you how to care for your teeth and gums at home. They hold their own registration division with the Dental Board of Australia.

Related services and further reading

Dental check-up

Dental hygiene

Fillings and restorations

General tooth extraction

No gap dental check-up

How much does a dental check-up cost in Melbourne? 2026 guide

Multilingual dental care across our communities

Safe dental X-rays

What is fluoride and what is it used for?

Ways to manage grinding teeth

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 does general dentistry include at Core Dental?

Core Dental general dentistry includes check-ups, hygiene and professional cleaning, fillings and restorations, root canal therapy, extractions, wisdom teeth removal, emergency dentistry, sport mouthguards, and preventive care such as gum and cavity assessments and fissure sealants.

How long is a comprehensive check-up at Core Dental?

A comprehensive oral examination at Core Dental, which assesses the whole mouth, typically takes 30 minutes to 1 hour. Your dentist explains what they find and the options available to you.

How often does Core Dental recommend a professional clean?

Professional cleaning at Core Dental, including scaling and polishing, is commonly recommended every six months. Our dentists and hygienists tailor the interval to your own oral health risks.

What fillings do Core Dental dentists use?

Our dentists at Core Dental use tooth-coloured composite resin fillings to repair damaged or decayed teeth. We explain what the filling is intended to achieve, the alternatives and the aftercare before treatment.

When are Core Dental clinics open?

Core Dental clinics are open Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm and Saturday 8.00am to 1.30pm, with Bayside opening Saturdays from 8.30am. We are closed on Sundays. Call 13 13 16 to book.

Does Core Dental offer general dentistry at all nine clinics?

Yes. General dentistry is available at Core Dental Southbank, South Melbourne, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Wyndham, Berwick, Bayside and Glenferrie. Call 13 13 16 to book at the practice that suits you.

Can I spread the cost of dental treatment at Core Dental?

Core Dental offers Payright interest-free plans 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 booking.

How do I book a dental appointment at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through your practice page at coredental.com.au. Tell us about your concern and any medical conditions so we can arrange suitable time with your dentist.