Specialist Dental Care in Melbourne | Core Dental Specialists

Canonical: https://www.coredental.com.au/specialist-care/

Details:

At Core Dental we have a team of registered specialists across several dental faculties who work together with our general dentists and hygienists. Our specialist care covers orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, paediatric dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery, with sleep dentistry available at select practices. Specialists visit on set sessions, so please confirm availability when you book. We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

What is specialist dental care?

Specialist dental care is treatment provided by a dentist who holds additional registered qualifications in one area of dentistry. At Core Dental our specialists work alongside our general dentists and hygienists, so your care can be planned by the whole team rather than by one practitioner alone. Peer review and case analysis by several practitioners are part of how we plan treatment, and all our practitioners are members of the Australian Dental Association. Read why this matters in our article on why seeing a registered specialist matters .

Which specialist services do we offer?

We offer specialist care across these disciplines, each with its own page:

Orthodontics for straightening teeth and correcting the bite

Endodontics for the tooth pulp and root canal treatment

Periodontics for gum disease and the supporting tissues

Prosthodontics for replacing and restoring teeth

Paediatric dentistry for children

Oral and maxillofacial surgery for surgical procedures of the mouth and jaws

Sleep dentistry for patients who need sedation or have dental anxiety, at select practices

What does an orthodontist treat?

Specialist orthodontists focus on correcting the position of the teeth and the bite, and on the appearance of the jaw and face. They use treatments such as conventional braces, Invisalign clear aligners and internal lingual braces , and can manage complex cases involving skeletal discrepancies and mixed dentition in children, where baby and adult teeth are both present.

What does an endodontist do?

Endodontists specialise in diseases and injuries that affect the tooth pulp, which is the nerve, and the internal structures of the tooth. They perform root canal therapy and related procedures to help preserve teeth that might otherwise need extraction because of infection, decay or trauma. See root

canal therapy .

What does a periodontist focus on?

Periodontists focus on the treatment and management of gum disease, gum recession and disorders affecting the supporting tissues of the teeth. Their work can include periodontal surgery, bone grafting and gum lift procedures aimed at restoring periodontal health. Read more in our article on what treatment of gum disease involves .

What do prosthodontists, paediatric dentists and oral surgeons do?

Prosthodontists plan and restore missing or damaged teeth with crowns, bridges, dentures and implant-supported restorations. Paediatric dentists provide dental care for children, including anxious children and children with complex needs. Oral and maxillofacial surgeons carry out surgical procedures of the mouth, teeth and jaws, such as complex wisdom tooth removal. Which specialist you need depends on an examination.

Where do our specialists work?

Our clinic pages list the specialists who attend each practice, and sessions are limited and can change. As listed on those pages, specialist orthodontists and paediatric dentists attend Caroline Springs and Epping , a specialist periodontist attends Wyndham , a specialist paediatric dentist attends Berwick , and paediatric and endodontic services are listed at Carrum Downs . Sleep dentistry options are listed at Epping, Wyndham and Berwick. Please call 13 13 16 to confirm the next available session for the specialist you need.

How do you see a specialist at Core Dental?

Often your general dentist will examine you first, explain whether a specialist is suitable and arrange the referral within our group. You are also welcome to call 13 13 16 and ask which of our practices has the specialist you are looking for. You can check any practitioner's registration on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au, and meet our team on our dentists and registered specialists page.

How much does specialist care cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the discipline, the complexity of your case and the provider, so we give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment starts. Please confirm the current written terms, what a quoted figure includes and any health fund rebate before booking or paying, because fees can change.

We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months with fortnightly instalments. Eligibility applies: you must be 18 or over, an Australian permanent resident, and able to provide ID and a verifiable email and mobile. Approval is not guaranteed. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. See our dental payment plans page.

How should you plan your care and make an informed decision?

A useful first step is to explain your concern, symptoms, timing and goals when you book. Bring relevant medical information and a current medicines list. The practitioner can then assess your teeth, gums, bite and surrounding tissues, request imaging when clinically appropriate and explain which

options are suitable. Ask what the recommended approach is intended to achieve, whether there are reasonable alternatives, what preparation and aftercare involve and what risks or limitations apply.

Call 000 immediately for uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, serious facial injury or other life-threatening symptoms. For severe tooth pain or swelling without these signs, contact your practice promptly.

Further detail from Core Dental

The following points are drawn from Core Dental's own published material on this topic. They are included here for completeness, and anything that applies to your own treatment should be confirmed with your clinician.

Every patient is different, so we recommend that you have a consultation with your orthodontist to discuss the most suitable treatment option for you. Prosthodontics is a field of dentistry focusing on the restoration of teeth that require crowns, veneers, bridges, implants, dentures or any combination of these. Our paediatric dentist can look after any of your child's complex dentistry needs, and is experienced in treating children with acquired and inherited learning difficulties. Sedation dentistry involves the administration of a sedative to put the patient into a state of deep relaxation (sedation) so that dental treatment can be performed without the patient feeling anxious or concerned during the procedure.

Intravenous sedation is a lighter level of anaesthesia than general anaesthesia – so, while patients will not be able to communicate during the procedure and are likely to have little memory of it, they will still have their natural reflexes such as coughing and gagging.

Which dental specialties exist beyond the ones described here?

The specialties set out above are the ones a patient is most likely to be referred to. They are not the whole field, and the remainder are worth knowing about because some of them are the reason a biopsy or an unusual scan gets sent somewhere else.

The Dental Board of Australia recognises thirteen dental specialties in total, approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council. Alongside orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, paediatric dentistry, oral surgery and oral and maxillofacial surgery, the list includes six that are less often encountered directly:

dento-maxillofacial radiology — imaging of the teeth, jaws and face, which is where a complex scan may be reported

oral medicine — the non-surgical diagnosis and management of disease affecting the mouth

oral and maxillofacial pathology — the laboratory diagnosis of disease in oral and facial tissue, which is where a biopsy taken in a dental chair is analysed

forensic odontology — the application of dentistry to identification and legal questions

public health dentistry (community dentistry) — oral health at a population rather than an individual level

special needs dentistry — the care of patients whose medical, physical, intellectual or social circumstances require a different approach

A referral into one of these is not an escalation in seriousness so much as a change in the kind of expertise required. A patient referred for a biopsy report, for instance, is not seeing the pathologist at all: the specialty does the diagnostic work behind the scenes.

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

What does holding specialist registration actually require?

It is a formal status with defined entry requirements, not a description a practitioner may adopt.

The Board states that "all applicants for specialist registration must be qualified and meet the requirements set out in the Board's Specialist registration standard." Those requirements include holding a qualification in the specialty, meeting all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and having "completed a minimum of two years general dental practice." The two years of general practice is a prerequisite rather than an alternative, so a registered specialist has worked as a general dentist before specialising.

The practical consequence for you is that the status is checkable. Ahpra publishes an online register of every dental practitioner, which gives current registration status and, for dentists holding specialist registration, records the specialty or specialties concerned. Looking up a name at ahpra.gov.au will tell you whether a practitioner holds specialist registration and in what, which a description on any website cannot.

Two distinctions follow from how the system is built, and both come up often.

A dentist with a strong interest in an area is not a registered specialist in it. Many general dentists undertake substantial further training and carry out treatment in areas that overlap with a specialty. That is ordinary and legitimate. It is a different thing from specialist registration, and the register is what separates the two.

Some fields of dental work are not specialties at all. Because the list of thirteen is fixed, there is no specialist registration available in areas outside it, however much training a practitioner has done. If you encounter a description of someone as a specialist in something not on the list, the term is being used loosely rather than in its regulated sense.

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a referral to see a specialist at Core Dental?

You can call 13 13 16 to ask about specialist appointments. In many cases your general dentist will examine you, explain whether a specialist is suitable and arrange the referral within our group.

Are all our specialists at every practice?

No. Specialists attend set sessions at particular practices, and availability can change. Please confirm the next available session with your practice when you book.

Are our specialists registered?

Our specialists hold registration as dentists and specialist registration where their title says so. You can check any practitioner on the national register of health practitioners.

Can children see a specialist at Core Dental?

Yes. Specialist paediatric dentists are listed at several of our practices, and our general dentists also see children. See our children's dentistry page.

Is sleep dentistry available at every practice?

No. Sleep dentistry options are listed at select practices, so please call 13 13 16 to confirm where and when it is available.

What is dento-maxillofacial radiology?

It is one of the thirteen dental specialties recognised by the Dental Board of Australia, concerned with imaging of the teeth, jaws and face. It is a specialty most patients never meet directly, because the work is the interpretation of a scan rather than treatment in a chair.

What is special needs dentistry?

One of the thirteen recognised dental specialties, covering the care of patients whose medical, physical, intellectual or social circumstances mean their dental care has to be approached differently. Like the others, it is a formal area of specialist registration recorded on the Ahpra register.

Is a dentist with extra training in an area a specialist?

Not in the regulated sense, unless they hold specialist registration in one of the thirteen recognised specialties. Many general dentists complete significant further training and treat cases that overlap with a specialty, which is entirely legitimate. Specialist registration is a separate status with its own requirements, and the Ahpra register is what distinguishes the two.

Can someone be a registered specialist in a field not on the list?

No. The list of 13 dental specialties approved by the Australian Health Workforce Ministerial Council defines where specialist registration is available. Where a field is not on it, no specialist registration exists in that field.

How do I verify a specialty for myself?

Look the practitioner up on the register Ahpra publishes, at ahpra.gov.au. The Dental Board notes that the register gives up-to-date information on a practitioner's registration status and includes details of the specialty or specialties of dentists who hold specialist registration.

Related services and further reading

Dentists and registered specialists

Orthodontist

Endodontics

Periodontics

Prosthodontics

Paediatric dentistry

Oral and maxillofacial surgery

Sleep dentistry

Consulting a specialist for a dental problem

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.

Registered specialists work alongside our general dentists and hygienists.

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 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 specialist care does Core Dental offer?

Core Dental offers specialist care in orthodontics, endodontics, periodontics, prosthodontics, paediatric dentistry and oral and maxillofacial surgery, with sleep dentistry at select practices. Specialists work with our general dentists and hygienists.

What does a Core Dental specialist orthodontist treat?

Specialist orthodontists correct the position of the teeth and the bite, using conventional braces, Invisalign clear aligners and internal lingual braces, and can manage complex cases including skeletal discrepancies and children with mixed dentition.

What does an endodontist do at Core Dental?

Endodontists treat diseases and injuries of the tooth pulp and internal tooth structures, performing root canal therapy and related procedures to help preserve teeth that might otherwise need extraction because of infection, decay or trauma.

What does a periodontist focus on at Core Dental?

Periodontists manage gum disease, gum recession and disorders of the tissues that support the teeth. Their work can include periodontal surgery, bone grafting and gum lift procedures to restore periodontal health.

Which Core Dental practices list specialist orthodontists?

Core Dental lists specialist orthodontists and paediatric dentists at Caroline Springs and Epping. Sessions are limited and can change, so call 13 13 16 to confirm the next available session before you travel.

Where does a Core Dental periodontist attend?

Core Dental Wyndham lists a specialist periodontist who attends on a weekly session. Specialist availability can change, so please call 13 13 16 or the practice to confirm the next available appointment.

Are Core Dental practitioners members of a professional body?

Yes. All Core Dental practitioners are members of the Australian Dental Association, and peer review and case analysis by several practitioners are part of our treatment planning. Registration can be checked at ahpra.gov.au.

How do I book a specialist at Core Dental?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. Tell the team what you need, and we will confirm which practice and session suit you, or arrange a referral from your general dentist.