Prosthodontics and Tooth Replacement in Melbourne | Core Dental

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

Details:

Prosthodontics is a field of dentistry concerned with restoring worn, damaged or lost teeth using crowns, bridges, veneers, implants, dentures or a combination of these. At Core Dental our dentists and dental prosthetists provide restorative and tooth replacement care at our practices across Melbourne, and we plan complex cases with input from the relevant clinicians. Which treatment suits you depends on an examination of your teeth, gums, bite and jaw, and results vary for each person.

What is prosthodontics?

Prosthodontics is a specialised field of dentistry concerned with the restoration of worn, damaged or lost teeth by means of crowns, bridges, veneers, implants, dentures or any combination of these. The aim is to restore chewing, speech and appearance in a way that suits your mouth.

What treatment options does prosthodontic care include?

Restorative solutions include:

dental crowns, to rebuild or support damaged or root-filled teeth, or to replace missing teeth, as covered on our dental crowns page

dental bridges, which are fixed replacements for one or more missing teeth, described on our dental bridges page

dentures, which are full or partial removable replacements, including implant-retained options, described on our dentures page

dental implants, as covered on our dental implants page

veneers, as covered on our composite and porcelain veneers page

These are often used in combination, depending on your needs.

Why might someone need prosthodontic treatment?

Teeth can wear because of causes such as grinding at night or imperfect jaw alignment, and they can be lost through accidental trauma, infection or poor gum health. Prosthodontic treatment becomes important when the situation is complex or involves significant tooth loss, because rebuilding or replacing missing teeth matters for chewing and eating, clear speech and jaw health.

Do prosthodontists work with other dental specialists?

Yes. In complex cases, specialist prosthodontists often work with specialists in related fields such as periodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery, to support both function and appearance. At Core Dental we use the knowledge of our dentists, hygienists and specialists in treatment planning, and peer review and case analysis by more than one practitioner are part of how we plan care. You can read

about our periodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery services.

What decision-making does comprehensive reconstruction involve?

For people who have lost most of their teeth and need comprehensive reconstruction, treatment planning is complex. It includes occlusion (how your teeth meet), the bone available for implants, and the sequence of stages. This kind of planning benefits from specialist training and experience, and we explain each stage, the alternatives and the likely maintenance before you decide.

How do we provide prosthodontic care at Core Dental?

Our general dentists assess your mouth and plan restorative care, including crowns, bridges, veneers and implants. Our dental prosthetists make and fit dentures. Where a case is complex, we discuss with you whether input from a registered prosthodontist or other specialist is appropriate, and which specialists are available at which practice changes over time, so please ask us when you book.

What are the risks and limits of restorative treatment?

Preparing teeth for crowns, bridges or veneers removes tooth structure that cannot be replaced. Restorations can chip, loosen, wear or need replacing over time, implants involve surgery and healing, and dentures need adjustment and maintenance. Good cleaning, regular check-ups and following your care instructions all affect how long treatment lasts. Your practitioner will explain the material risks before you decide.

How much do prosthodontic treatments cost, and how can you pay?

Fees depend on the diagnosis, the materials, the number of visits and the practitioner, so we give you a written treatment plan and quote before treatment starts. We offer interest-free payment plans through Payright for amounts up to $20,000, over 3 to 30 months with fortnightly repayments, subject to eligibility and approval. TLC personal loans are also available, with amounts from $2,001 to $50,000 over up to 84 months and the rate set by a credit assessment. HICAPS claiming is available on-site, and any rebate depends on your own health fund cover. Finance terms are as published in September 2026 and should be confirmed with our team before you commit. You can read more on our dental payment plans page.

Where can you have prosthodontic care at Core Dental?

Restorative care is available at our practices across Melbourne, including Southbank , South Melbourne , Caroline Springs , Carrum Downs , Epping , Wyndham , Berwick , Bayside and Glenferrie . Call 13 13 16 to ask which practice suits you.

Who provides prosthodontic care at Core Dental?

Our dentists and dental prosthetists provide restorative care. Ahmed Saoud and Alessio Pecorella are listed on our website as Dental Prosthetists (AdvDip Dental Prosthetics). Read their profiles on Ahmed Saoud and Alessio Pecorella , and see the dentists and registered specialists page. You can check any practitioner's registration on the AHPRA register at ahpra.gov.au.

What should you do before you book?

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

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. Treatment time, fees, recovery and maintenance vary with the diagnosis and the complexity of care. A written treatment plan lets you compare stages, expected appointments and payment arrangements before you proceed.

Call 000 immediately for uncontrollable bleeding, difficulty breathing or swallowing, serious facial injury or other life-threatening symptoms, and do not wait for a dental appointment. For severe tooth pain or swelling without these signs, contact us promptly on 13 13 16.

Where a prosthodontist sits among the people who can replace a tooth

Prosthodontics is the specialty concerned with restoring and replacing teeth, and one of the more useful things to know about it is that a specialist is not always the person who does the work.

The Victorian Department of Health sets out who can make a denture: "dentures can be made for you by a dentist, dental prosthetist (advanced dental technician) or specialist prosthodontist."

Three different practitioners, three different qualifications, and the title matters because only one of them holds specialist registration. A dental prosthetist is a registered practitioner in their own right, not a dentist; the Department describes them as an advanced dental technician. A specialist prosthodontist holds specialist registration with the Dental Board of Australia, which requires a qualification in the specialty, all the requirements for general registration as a dentist, and "a minimum of two years general dental practice". A general dentist provides a great deal of restorative work without either.

None of these is a lesser option. They are different scopes, and which one suits you depends on what the work involves — which is why we examine first and then explain who would do what. Any practitioner's registration type and any specialty can be checked on the public register at ahpra.gov.au.

The Department also frames the broader aim in a way worth repeating on a page about replacing teeth: "in the past, people often had their natural teeth pulled out when there was a problem and had them replaced with false teeth (dentures). These days, dental practitioners aim to help you keep your natural teeth for as long as possible." It adds that "with good care, teeth can last a lifetime", while acknowledging that damage, decay, injury and gum problems still cost people teeth.

That order of preference — keep the tooth where it can be kept — is the starting point for any prosthodontic conversation, not an afterthought to it.

Sources: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dentures, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (reviewed 4 August 2026); Dental Board of Australia, Specialist Registration, dentalboard.gov.au (reviewed 18 March 2025). Both accessed 4 November 2026.

Looking after a replacement, and the signs that need an appointment

Restorative work is not finished when it is fitted. The published care advice for removable dentures is specific, and several items in it are the opposite of what people assume.

Toothpaste is the wrong product. The Department is explicit: "use a denture brush with mild soap and water, or denture cleaning solution. Toothpaste is not recommended because it can scratch the dentures."

Hot water damages the fit. "It is important to remember to never use hot water for cleaning or rinsing dentures as it can change the shape and fit of the denture." Rinse with cold.

Take them out overnight. "It's really important to take your dentures out before going to sleep at night. Leaving your dentures out overnight gives your mouth a chance to rest and recover. It also helps to prevent fungal infections." Clean them "in the morning and before going to bed at night", and store them "in a clean, dry container overnight".

Handle a lower denture carefully. "Do not hold the lower dentures at the ends as they are U shaped and the pressure might cause them to snap." The Department also suggests cleaning them over a basin half-filled with water or covered with a towel, so a drop does not break them.

The mouth underneath still needs cleaning. "You also need to clean any remaining natural teeth while your dentures are out. Use a toothbrush with a small head and soft bristles, and fluoride toothpaste. Don't forget to gently brush any parts of your mouth that are normally covered by the dentures. This includes your gums and the roof of your mouth."

And the list that matters most — the Department's reasons to see a practitioner rather than wait: pain; "ulcers (sores) that last more than two weeks"; dentures that "don't fit well or are uncomfortable"; loose teeth; bleeding gums; swelling; "a gum abscess (pus-filled sore on the gum)"; "soreness or cracks in the corner of your mouth"; and bad breath.

The two-week threshold on an ulcer is the one to remember. A sore spot from a new denture is common and we can adjust it; a sore that persists beyond two weeks is a different matter and should be looked at. The Department's closing advice is simply to "ask your dental practitioner how often you should have your dentures checked" — so please do ask us, because the answer depends on your own mouth rather than on a standard interval.

Source: Better Health Channel (Victorian Department of Health), Dentures, betterhealth.vic.gov.au (page reviewed 4 August 2026; accessed 4 November 2026).

Frequently asked questions

Is a prosthodontist the same as a dentist?

A prosthodontist is a dentist with additional specialist training in restoring and replacing teeth. Your dentist can explain when this is relevant, and specialist registration can be checked on the national practitioner register.

What is the difference between a bridge and a denture?

A bridge is a fixed replacement anchored to neighbouring teeth, while a denture is removable. Both replace missing teeth, and your dentist will explain which suits your mouth.

Can implants and dentures be combined?

Yes. Dentures can be fixed in place using dental implants, which is known as an implant-retained denture. This involves implant surgery and a separate fee.

When is specialist input useful?

Complex cases, such as significant tooth loss, can involve occlusion, bone availability and implant planning. In these situations, specialist input from related fields may be useful.

Does Core Dental offer payment plans for restorative treatment?

Yes. We quote before treatment starts and offer Payright plans for amounts up to $20,000 over 3 to 30 months, subject to eligibility and approval. HICAPS claiming is available on-site.

Is a prosthodontist the only person who can replace a missing tooth?

No. The Victorian Department of Health lists three kinds of practitioner who can make a denture: "a dentist, dental prosthetist (advanced dental technician) or specialist prosthodontist". Only the prosthodontist holds specialist registration; a dental prosthetist is a registered practitioner in their own right rather than a dentist. Which suits you depends on the work involved, and you can check anyone's registration at ahpra.gov.au.

Should toothpaste be used on a denture?

No. The Department advises "a denture brush with mild soap and water, or denture cleaning solution", and states that "toothpaste is not recommended because it can scratch the dentures".

Can I rinse a denture in hot water?

No. The Department says to "never use hot water for cleaning or rinsing dentures as it can change the shape and fit of the denture". Rinse with cold water, and clean over a basin half-filled with water or covered with a towel so a drop does not break it.

Should dentures be worn overnight?

No. The Department's advice is that "it's really important to take your dentures out before going to sleep at night. Leaving your dentures out overnight gives your mouth a chance to rest and recover. It also helps to prevent fungal infections." Store them in a clean, dry container.

When is a sore spot a reason to come back?

A new denture pressing on the gum is common, and the Department says to return "as soon as possible for adjustments". The one to watch is duration: its list of reasons to see a practitioner includes "ulcers (sores) that last more than two weeks", along with bleeding gums, swelling, a gum abscess, cracks at the corners of the mouth, a denture that does not fit, and bad breath. Anything in that list is worth an appointment rather than waiting.

Related services and further reading

Specialist care

Dental crowns

Dental bridges

Dentures

Dental implants

Periodontics

Endodontics

Oral and maxillofacial surgery

Orthodontist

Paediatric dentistry

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.

We quote before treatment starts and offer interest-free payment plans.

HICAPS on-site claiming, and bulk billing for eligible children under the Child Dental Benefits Schedule.

Dental prosthetists listed at Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping and Wyndham.

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 mornings, 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 prosthodontics cover at Core Dental?

Prosthodontics covers restoring worn, damaged or lost teeth with crowns, bridges, veneers, implants, dentures or a combination. At Core Dental our dentists and dental prosthetists provide restorative care after an examination.

Who makes dentures at Core Dental?

Our dental prosthetists make and fit dentures at Core Dental. Ahmed Saoud is listed at Caroline Springs, Epping and Wyndham, and Alessio Pecorella at Carrum Downs, each as a Dental Prosthetist with an AdvDip in Dental Prosthetics.

Why is planning complex for extensive tooth loss at Core Dental?

For people who have lost most of their teeth, planning involves occlusion, which is how teeth meet, the bone available and implant sequencing. At Core Dental we explain each stage, alternatives and maintenance before you decide.

Which other specialists help with complex restorative cases?

Complex restorative cases can involve specialists in periodontics and oral and maxillofacial surgery. Core Dental uses peer review and case analysis by several practitioners in treatment planning, and we explain who is involved in your care.

Can Core Dental restore teeth with implants and crowns together?

Yes. Crowns can sit on dental implants to replace missing teeth, and dentures can be fixed in place with implants. Our team at Core Dental explains the stages, risks and costs before treatment starts.

How do I ask Core Dental about a prosthodontic consultation?

Call Core Dental on 13 13 16 or book online through coredental.com.au. Tell us about your missing or damaged teeth, and ask whether a registered prosthodontist is available at your preferred practice.