

Dental Implants at Core Dental Carrum Downs

Canonical:

<https://directory.coredental.com.au/dental-implants/dental-implants-at-core-dental-carrum-downs-2-article/>

Description:

Dental Implants at Core Dental Carrum Downs *The gold standard for replacing missing teeth — permanent, natural-looking, and fully functional. Expert implant care right here on Ballarto Road.* ## ...

Details:

The gold standard for replacing missing teeth — permanent, natural-looking, and fully functional. Expert implant care right here on Ballarto Road.

Missing Teeth Affect More Than Your Smile

Losing a tooth changes things. It changes how you eat, how you speak, how you smile, and — if left untreated — how your remaining teeth behave. When a tooth is lost, the surrounding teeth begin to drift into the gap. The jawbone where the tooth root used to be starts to resorb and shrink. Your bite changes. Your face can gradually change shape as bone volume is lost.

A missing tooth at the back of your mouth might not be visible when you smile, but it's still doing damage. A missing tooth at the front affects your confidence every time you speak, laugh, or meet someone new.

Dental implants are the closest thing modern dentistry offers to replacing a natural tooth. They look natural, feel natural, function like your own teeth, and — with proper care — can last a lifetime. At Core Dental Carrum Downs, our experienced team provides comprehensive implant care for patients across Carrum Downs, Langwarrin, Frankston North, Skye, Cranbourne West, and the broader southern suburbs.

What Is a Dental Implant?

A dental implant is a small titanium post that is surgically placed into the jawbone to replace the root of a missing tooth. Titanium is biocompatible — meaning your body accepts it — and over a period of several months, the bone grows around and bonds with the implant surface in a process called osseointegration. This creates an incredibly stable foundation for a replacement tooth.

The Three Components of a Dental Implant

1. **The implant (fixture):** A small titanium screw placed into the jawbone. This acts as the artificial root. 2. **The abutment:** A connector piece that sits on top of the implant, emerging through the gum. It provides the connection point for the replacement tooth. 3. **The crown (prosthesis):** The visible part — a custom-made porcelain crown that looks and functions like a natural tooth. It's colour-matched to your surrounding teeth for a seamless result.

Together, these three components create a complete tooth replacement that is self-supporting, doesn't rely on adjacent teeth for support, and preserves the jawbone by providing the stimulation it needs to maintain its volume and density.

Why Choose Dental Implants?

Compared to Dentures

Dentures have their place — and our on-site dental prosthetist Alessio Pecorella provides excellent denture solutions — but implants offer several significant advantages:

- **Stability:** Implants are fixed in place. They don't slip, click, or move when you eat or speak.
- **Bone preservation:** Implants stimulate the jawbone, preventing the bone loss that occurs under dentures.
- **No adhesives:** No messy denture adhesives required.
- **Natural feel:** Implants feel like your own teeth. Most patients forget they have them.
- **Longevity:** With proper care, implants can last a lifetime. Dentures typically need replacement every 5–10 years.
- **Eating:** Implants restore full biting and chewing function. No dietary restrictions.

Compared to Bridges

Traditional bridges require grinding down the healthy teeth on either side of the gap to support the replacement tooth. This permanently alters healthy tooth structure. Implants, by contrast, are self-supporting — they don't affect adjacent teeth at all.

- **Preserves healthy teeth:** No modification of neighbouring teeth required
- **Independent:** Each implant stands alone, making hygiene simpler
- **Longer-lasting:** Implants typically outlast bridges significantly
- **Easier to clean:** You can floss around an implant just like a natural tooth

Who Is a Candidate for Dental Implants?

Most adults who have lost one or more teeth are potential candidates for dental implants. The key requirements are:

- **Adequate jawbone:** There needs to be enough bone volume and density to support the implant. If bone has been lost, bone grafting procedures can often rebuild it sufficiently.
- **Healthy gums:** Active gum disease needs to be treated before implant placement.
- **Good general health:** Certain uncontrolled medical conditions (such as uncontrolled diabetes) may affect healing. Your dentist will review your medical history thoroughly.
- **Non-smoker or willing to quit:** Smoking significantly increases the risk of implant failure. We strongly recommend stopping smoking before and during the implant healing process.
- **Commitment to oral hygiene:** Implants require the same level of care as natural teeth — regular brushing, flossing, and professional check-ups.

Age Considerations

There is no upper age limit for dental implants. We regularly place implants in patients in their 70s and 80s, provided their health and bone quality allow it. The lower age limit is typically around 18 for males and 16 for females, once jaw growth is complete.

Bone Grafting

If you've been told you don't have enough bone for implants, bone grafting may be an option. This procedure involves adding bone material to the deficient area and allowing it to integrate over several months, creating a solid foundation for implant placement. Bone grafting has made implants possible for many patients who would previously have been told they weren't candidates.

The Dental Implant Process

Stage 1: Comprehensive Assessment and Planning

The implant process begins with a thorough assessment at our Carrum Downs practice. This includes:

- Detailed clinical examination
- Digital X-rays and potentially 3D cone beam CT scanning for precise bone assessment
- Review of your medical history and any medications
- Discussion of your goals and

expectations - A comprehensive treatment plan with clear cost breakdown

Treatment planning is critical to implant success. We take the time to get it right, using digital imaging to plan the exact position, angle, and depth of each implant before any surgery takes place.

Stage 2: Implant Placement

The implant is placed during a surgical procedure performed under local anaesthesia. For patients who are anxious or who require multiple implants, sedation options are available.

The procedure involves: 1. A small incision in the gum to expose the jawbone 2. A precise channel is drilled into the bone at the planned position 3. The titanium implant is placed into the channel 4. The gum is sutured closed over or around the implant 5. A healing period begins

Most patients report that implant surgery is more comfortable than they expected — many say it's comparable to having a tooth extracted. Post-operative discomfort is typically manageable with over-the-counter pain relief and subsides within a few days.

Stage 3: Osseointegration (Healing)

This is the critical phase where the magic happens. Over a period of typically three to six months, the jawbone grows around and bonds with the titanium implant surface. During this time, the implant becomes firmly anchored in the bone.

During the healing period, you may be fitted with a temporary tooth to fill the gap, ensuring you're never left with a visible space in your smile.

Stage 4: Abutment Placement

Once osseointegration is confirmed, a small procedure is performed to attach the abutment — the connector piece — to the implant. This involves exposing the top of the implant through the gum and connecting the abutment. The gum is then allowed to heal around the abutment for a couple of weeks.

Stage 5: Crown Fabrication and Fitting

The final step is the creation and placement of your custom crown. Impressions or digital scans of your mouth are taken, and a porcelain crown is fabricated to match the colour, shape, and size of your natural teeth. When the crown is ready, it's attached to the abutment.

The result is a replacement tooth that looks, feels, and functions like a natural tooth. It's the moment that makes the entire process worthwhile.

How Long Do Dental Implants Last?

This is one of the most common questions we hear, and the answer is genuinely encouraging. The titanium implant itself — the part embedded in the jawbone — can last a lifetime with proper care. Clinical studies tracking implants over 20+ years show success rates exceeding 95%, and many of the earliest implants placed in the 1960s and 1970s are still functioning today.

The crown that sits on top of the implant is subject to the same wear as any dental restoration and may need replacement after 10–15 years. However, replacing a crown on an existing implant is a straightforward process — far simpler than the original implant surgery.

Factors that affect implant longevity include: - **Oral hygiene:** Implants can develop "peri-implantitis" — a form of gum disease around the implant — if plaque is allowed to accumulate. Regular brushing, flossing, and professional maintenance are essential. - **Smoking:** Significantly increases the risk of implant failure both during healing and long-term. - **Grinding (bruxism):** Excessive forces can damage the implant crown or affect the implant-bone junction. A night guard is recommended for patients who grind. - **Regular check-ups:** Professional monitoring catches early signs of problems

before they become serious.

Types of Implant Solutions

Single Tooth Implant

The most straightforward implant case — one implant replaces one missing tooth. The implant is self-supporting and doesn't affect adjacent teeth.

Implant-Supported Bridge

When multiple adjacent teeth are missing, an implant-supported bridge can replace them without needing an implant for every tooth. Typically, two implants support a bridge of three or more teeth, providing a cost-effective solution for larger gaps.

Implant-Retained Dentures

For patients who are missing all or most of their teeth, implant-retained dentures offer a transformative solution. Two to four implants are placed in the jaw, and a denture is attached to them. The denture clips securely onto the implants, providing stability that conventional dentures simply cannot match.

With dental prosthetist Alessio Pecorella on-site at our Carrum Downs practice, we can coordinate the implant and denture components seamlessly. The prosthetist works closely with your dentist to ensure the final denture fits precisely and functions beautifully on the implant foundations.

Full-Arch Implant Solutions

For patients who want a fixed (non-removable) replacement for an entire arch of teeth, full-arch implant solutions use four to six implants to support a complete set of fixed teeth. These teeth are permanently attached and function like natural teeth — you brush them, floss them, and never take them out.

Caring for Your Dental Implants

One of the great advantages of dental implants is that they're maintained much like natural teeth:

- **Brush twice daily** with a soft-bristled toothbrush
- **Floss daily** — special floss threaders or interdental brushes can be helpful around implants
- **Attend regular check-ups** — we'll monitor your implants, the surrounding gum health, and the condition of the crown at each visit
- **Avoid smoking** — smoking is the single biggest risk factor for long-term implant failure
- **Protect from trauma** — wear a mouthguard for contact sports

With proper care, dental implants have success rates exceeding 95% and can last a lifetime. The crown on top may need replacement after 10–15 years due to normal wear, but the implant itself can remain sound indefinitely.

The Cost of Dental Implants

Dental implants represent a significant investment, but they are also the most cost-effective long-term solution for missing teeth. When you consider that a well-maintained implant can last a lifetime — while bridges and dentures need periodic replacement — the lifetime value is compelling.

The cost of dental implants depends on several factors:

- The number of implants needed
- Whether bone grafting is required
- The type of crown or prosthesis
- The complexity of the case

We provide detailed, transparent treatment plans with itemised costs before any treatment begins. There are no hidden fees and no surprises.

Payment Options

- **Health fund:** We accept all major health funds with HICAPS on-site. Many funds provide partial rebates for implant treatment. - **Payright:** Interest-free payment plans allow you to spread the cost over manageable instalments, making implant treatment accessible without financial strain. - **Transparent quoting:** You'll know exactly what your treatment will cost before you commit.

Frequently Asked Questions About Dental Implants

Is the surgery painful?

Most patients report that implant surgery is more comfortable than they expected. The procedure is performed under local anaesthesia, so the area is completely numb during surgery. Post-operative discomfort is typically managed with over-the-counter pain relief and is generally described as less intense than after a tooth extraction. Sedation options are available for anxious patients.

How long does the whole process take?

From initial consultation to final crown, the process typically takes 3–6 months. The majority of this time is the healing period (osseointegration) where the implant integrates with the jawbone. The surgical appointments themselves are relatively brief.

Can I have teeth while the implant heals?

Yes. We can provide temporary solutions — such as a temporary crown, a flipper (removable partial denture), or a temporary bridge — so you're never left with a visible gap during the healing period.

Are there any medical conditions that prevent me from getting implants?

Very few conditions absolutely prevent implant treatment, though some require careful management. Uncontrolled diabetes, active cancer treatment, certain bone medications (bisphosphonates), and heavy smoking all increase risk. Your dentist will review your medical history thoroughly and discuss any considerations specific to your situation.

What's the difference between a dental implant and a bridge?

A bridge uses the teeth on either side of a gap as supports, requiring those teeth to be permanently modified (ground down) to accommodate crowns. An implant is self-supporting — it sits in the jawbone independently and doesn't affect adjacent teeth. Implants also preserve jawbone (bridges don't) and are typically easier to clean.

Specialist Referral Access

As part of the Smile Solutions group, Core Dental Carrum Downs has direct referral access to the Smile Solutions Specialist Centre on Collins Street, Melbourne. For complex implant cases that may require specialist oral surgery, periodontist-placed implants, or advanced bone grafting procedures, we can refer you seamlessly. Your records transfer directly, the specialists are already within our system, and the process is smooth and coordinated.

This means you get local convenience for your assessment, planning, and ongoing care, with specialist backup for complex surgical components when needed.

Book Your Implant Consultation

If you're missing one or more teeth and want to explore whether dental implants are right for you, book a consultation at Core Dental Carrum Downs. We'll assess your situation, explain your options clearly, and provide a detailed treatment plan with transparent costs.

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****Hours:**** Monday – Friday: 8:00 am – 6:00 pm Saturday: 8:00 am – 1:30 pm Sunday: Closed

Ground-floor, fully disability accessible with wide corridors throughout. Ample on-site parking directly outside the practice. All health funds accepted with HICAPS on-site for immediate claims processing. Interest-free payment plans available through Payright to make implant treatment accessible without financial stress.

Replace what's missing. Restore what matters. Expert dental implant care at Core Dental Carrum Downs — your local practice on Ballarto Road.