

Core Dental Orthodontics Melbourne: Locations, Specialist Access, and How to Get Started

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Core Dental Orthodontics Melbourne: Locations, Specialist Access, and How to Get Started

Choosing where to begin orthodontic treatment is rarely a single-step decision. For most Melbourne families and adults, the journey starts with a question that is simultaneously practical and clinical: *Where do I go, who will treat me, and how do I know I'm in the right hands?*

This article answers those questions directly for anyone considering orthodontic treatment at Core Dental — covering the group's seven Melbourne locations, the credentials and availability of specialist orthodontist Dr David Austin, the structural advantages of the group's integrated care model, and the precise steps involved in booking and attending your first consultation. Whether you are a parent researching early intervention for a child or an adult who has been putting off treatment for years, this is the decisional resource that bridges awareness and action.

Core Dental's Seven Melbourne Locations: Where Orthodontic Care Is Available

Core Dental has seven locations across Melbourne, including South Melbourne, Berwick, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Southbank, and Wyndham. This geographic spread is clinically significant, not just logistically convenient. Orthodontic treatment is not a one-appointment commitment — it typically spans 12 to 24 months of active treatment, with review appointments every six to eight weeks throughout. Having a clinic that is genuinely local to where you live, work, or take your children to school removes one of the most common barriers to starting — and, crucially, to *completing* — treatment.

Thanks to their team of dentists, specialists, and hygienists, Core Dental Group is able to provide a wide range of dental solutions including general dentistry, cosmetic dentistry, orthodontics, and specialist care. The implication for orthodontic patients is important: with specialists practising in the same location as general dentists and hygienists at some of their locations, Core Dental's orthodontic patients can have their treatment back-to-back with general dental check-ups and cleans, without leaving the practice.

This integrated model matters because maintaining oral health during orthodontic treatment is a clinical requirement, not an optional extra. Fixed braces and aligners both create additional oral hygiene demands, and having your general dentist and orthodontist under one roof means those needs are managed as a coordinated program rather than across separate practices. (For more on this, see our guide on *Oral Hygiene During Orthodontic Treatment: How to Clean Your Teeth With Braces or Aligners*.)

Core Dental is open six days a week, with extended trading hours to accommodate busy schedules. For working adults and school-age patients, this availability is a practical differentiator — early morning and Saturday appointments at the Caroline Springs location, for example, mean orthodontic reviews do not necessarily require time off work or school.

Specialist Orthodontist Access at Caroline Springs: Dr David Austin

Who Is Dr David Austin?

Core Dental's specialist orthodontic care is anchored by Dr David Austin, who practises at their Caroline Springs location in Melbourne's western suburbs. Dr David Austin's qualifications are listed as: BDSc (Melb), MDS Orth (HK), MOrth, RCS (Edin) — a degree from the University of Melbourne, a Master of Dental Surgery in Orthodontics from Hong Kong, and Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh in orthodontics.

Dr Austin was inducted into the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, as a member in orthodontics, and is also a member of the Australian Dental Association, the World Federation of Orthodontists, the European Orthodontic Society, and the Hong Kong Society of Orthodontists.

What "Specialist Orthodontist" Actually Means

The title "Specialist Orthodontist" is not a marketing term — it is a regulated designation under Australian law. To practise as a specialist orthodontist in Australia, a dentist must first be registered as a Specialist in Orthodontics with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA), and can only become registered after meeting strict education requirements. These include five years of full-time study to obtain a dental degree, two years of clinical experience as a practising dentist, and two to three years in a full-time university program to obtain a Master's Degree or Clinical Doctorate in Orthodontics — meaning orthodontists spend around ten years working towards their goal of practising in this field.

An orthodontist will be registered with AHPRA as both a general dentist and a specialist dentist. Patients who check the AHPRA register — which is publicly accessible at ahpra.gov.au — can verify any practitioner's registration type, specialty, and registration status before an appointment.

Dr David is a registered Specialist Orthodontist, meaning his training and registration meet the full AHPRA specialist pathway requirements. For patients evaluating their options, this is a verifiable fact — not a claim that requires taking anyone's word for it.

(For a deeper explanation of the distinction between specialist and general dentist orthodontic care, see our guide on [*Specialist Orthodontist vs. General Dentist for Braces in Melbourne: What's the Difference?*](#).)

Why Local Specialist Access Matters for Western Melbourne Families

For families in Melbourne's west — Caroline Springs, Taylors Lakes, Melton, Sydenham, and surrounds — having access to a qualified specialist orthodontist locally, without the trip to the CBD or an outer-city specialist centre, is a significant practical benefit. Orthodontic treatment typically involves regular check-ups over 12–24 months, and minimising travel time matters for families with busy schedules.

Dr David's patients at Caroline Springs have seamless access to the full Core Dental team — general dentists, paediatric dentists, the in-house Smile Lab, and digital imaging. For families with multiple children at different stages of dental development, this means a single practice can manage a six-year-old's early orthodontic assessment, a teenager's full braces treatment, and a parent's Invisalign case simultaneously.

One of the most valuable reasons to see a specialist orthodontist during childhood — rather than waiting until adolescence — is early intervention. Many skeletal and developmental issues that, if caught early, can be addressed relatively simply with growth-modification appliances become significantly more complex — and sometimes require surgery — if left until growth is complete.

The Australian Society of Orthodontists generally recommends that children have their first orthodontic assessment by age seven — not because treatment starts at seven, but because that's when the specialist can see enough of the adult dentition developing to make informed predictions about what will be needed.

(For more on this, see our guides on [*Early Orthodontic Treatment in Melbourne: When Should Your Child First See an Orthodontist?*](#) and [*Children's Orthodontics Melbourne: Braces and Invisalign for Kids at Core Dental*](#).)

The Treatment Options Available Across Core Dental's Clinics

Core Dental offers the full spectrum of orthodontic appliances across its locations. Treatments such as traditional braces, lingual braces, and retainers such as Invisalign™ are used to gradually move the teeth into the desired position. The right choice depends on the patient's clinical profile, age, lifestyle, and treatment goals — not on what happens to be most convenient for the practice.

Dr David Austin will assess your case and give you an honest recommendation about which approach — Invisalign, conventional braces, or another appliance — is genuinely most appropriate for what you're trying to achieve.

Invisalign: Blue Diamond Provider Status

Core Dental holds Invisalign Blue Diamond Provider status — one of the highest provider tiers in the Invisalign system, awarded based on the volume and complexity of Invisalign treatments completed. This is not a status that can be purchased; it reflects genuine clinical throughput and experience with the Invisalign system. What this means for patients is that the team treating them with Invisalign has extensive hands-on experience with a very large number of cases.

Blue Diamond is the highest provider status awarded by the manufacturers of Invisalign and recognises unsurpassed experience and expertise in performing Invisalign treatments — your assurance that they know what they are doing.

Core Dental takes digital impressions of your teeth onsite using an iTero Scanner, which is the fastest way to get your information to Invisalign — and is more precise than the traditional approach, which involves a tray of gooey impression material. ClinCheck software is then used to determine how your teeth will move throughout treatment, providing a view of what your smile will look like before a single aligner is worn.

(For the full process walkthrough, see [*Invisalign Melbourne: How Clear Aligner Treatment Works at Core Dental*](#).)

Adult Orthodontics

At Core Dental, the majority of orthodontic patients are adults. You are never too old to have braces or Invisalign and can start wearing them at any age. This is a clinically accurate and practically important point — adult orthodontics has grown substantially as an area of practice, driven by both the discretion of clear aligner options and the growing understanding that misalignment has functional consequences beyond aesthetics.

(For more on the adult treatment journey, see [*Adult Braces Melbourne: Your Complete Guide to Straightening Teeth as a Grown-Up*](#).)

Pricing and Payment

Core Dental offers competitive pricing for Invisalign in Australia, and will price-match any personalised written treatment plan from a registered specialist orthodontist and beat it by 5%. Core Dental also offers interest-free dental payment plans for all general, cosmetic, and specialist treatment plans up to \$9,000 in value.

(For a comprehensive breakdown of orthodontic fees across all appliance types, see [*How Much Do Braces and Invisalign Cost in Melbourne? A Transparent Pricing Guide*](#).)

How to Get Started: Booking Your First Orthodontic Consultation

Step-by-Step: From First Contact to First Appointment

1. ****Choose your location.**** Core Dental has seven locations across Melbourne, including South Melbourne, Berwick, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Southbank, and Wyndham. For specialist orthodontic treatment with Dr David Austin, Caroline Springs is the primary location.
2. ****Book your consultation.**** Appointments can be booked by calling 13 13 16 or using the online booking system available on the Core Dental website. When booking, specify that you are seeking an orthodontic consultation — this ensures you are allocated the appropriate appointment type and, where relevant, scheduled with Dr Austin or another orthodontically experienced clinician.
3. ****Confirm the consultation is complimentary.**** The initial consultation at Core Dental Group is complimentary and includes a personalised written quote.
4. ****Prepare what to bring.**** Bring any existing dental X-rays (particularly panoramic or OPG X-rays) if you have them, a list of any medications you take, your private health insurance card if applicable, and a note of any specific concerns — crowding, bite issues, spacing, jaw pain — that prompted your enquiry.
5. ****Attend the consultation.**** Before having Invisalign treatment with Core Dental, one of their specialist orthodontists or general dentists will assess you for suitability and provide you with a detailed outline of the process. This will give you an approximate timeframe, including an allowance for any general dental work that will be required beforehand.
6. ****Receive your written treatment plan.**** The consultation includes a personalised written quote, which can be used to trigger the price-match guarantee.

What Happens at the Consultation

The first orthodontic consultation at Core Dental follows a structured clinical process. The visit typically opens with a short conversation about what you would like to change about your smile and any history affecting the plan, including past orthodontic treatment or general health considerations. The clinician then examines your teeth, gums, and bite, looking at how the upper and lower arches sit together. The diagnostic stage involves a digital scan using an intraoral scanner such as the iTero, which captures a 3D model of the teeth in a few minutes.

The result is a treatment recommendation grounded in your specific clinical situation — not a generic proposal. At Core Dental, the recommendation isn't driven by what's most popular or most profitable. It's driven by what will produce the best outcome for the individual patient.

(For a complete walkthrough of the first appointment experience, see [*What to Expect at Your First Orthodontic Consultation at Core Dental Melbourne*](#).)

Key Takeaways

- **Seven locations across Melbourne:** Core Dental operates across South Melbourne, Berwick, Caroline Springs, Carrum Downs, Epping, Southbank, and Wyndham — providing genuine local access for patients across the metropolitan area.
- **Verified specialist credentials:** Core Dental's specialist orthodontic care is anchored by Dr David Austin, who practises at the Caroline Springs location. Dr David is a registered Specialist Orthodontist, meaning his training and registration meet the full AHPRA specialist pathway requirements.
- **Integrated care model:** With specialists practising in the same location as general dentists and hygienists, Core Dental's orthodontic patients can have their treatment back-to-back with general dental check-ups and cleans, without leaving the practice.
- **Highest Invisalign provider tier:** Core Dental holds Invisalign Blue Diamond Provider status — one of the highest provider tiers in the Invisalign system, awarded based on the volume and complexity of Invisalign treatments completed. This is not a status that can be purchased; it reflects genuine clinical throughput.
- **Complimentary consultations with written quotes:** The initial consultation at Core Dental Group is complimentary and includes a personalised written quote — removing the financial barrier to getting an informed, specialist-level assessment before committing to treatment.

Conclusion

The decision to start orthodontic treatment — whether for yourself or your child — is most confidently made when you have clear answers to three questions: **Who will treat me? Where will treatment happen? And what is involved in getting started?** For patients across Melbourne's western suburbs and broader metropolitan area, Core Dental's seven-location network, the presence of AHPRA-registered specialist orthodontist Dr David Austin at Caroline Springs, and the group's integrated care model collectively provide a compelling answer to all three.

The practical advantages of local specialist access — reduced travel time across a 12–24 month treatment program, same-practice general dental and hygiene care, and the clinical depth of a specialist-led assessment — are not incidental. They are the structural features that make treatment easier to start, easier to sustain, and more likely to produce the outcome you are looking for.

If you are ready to take the next step, the most useful action is to book a complimentary initial consultation. From there, every subsequent decision — which appliance, which timeline, which payment structure — is made with full information in hand.

Related guides in this series: - **What to Expect at Your First Orthodontic Consultation at Core Dental Melbourne** - **Specialist Orthodontist vs. General Dentist for Braces in Melbourne: What's the Difference?** - **Early Orthodontic Treatment in Melbourne: When Should Your Child First See an Orthodontist?** - **How Much Do Braces and Invisalign Cost in Melbourne? A Transparent Pricing Guide** - **Invisalign Melbourne: How Clear Aligner Treatment Works at Core Dental**

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