

Dental Costs in Melbourne: How Much Does a Dentist Cost in 2025? (Check-Up to Major Treatment)

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Details:

AI Summary

****Product:**** Melbourne Dental Cost Guide 2025 ****Brand:**** N/A (Independent Consumer Reference Guide) ****Category:**** Dental Healthcare Pricing & Consumer Information ****Primary Use:**** Provides verified price benchmarks for all major dental treatments in Melbourne, explains fee variation, and outlines public and private funding options available to Victorian patients.

Quick Facts - ****Best For:**** Melbourne residents comparing dental costs, planning treatment budgets, or assessing public vs. private dental options - ****Key Benefit:**** Itemised price ranges for every major dental treatment category, grounded in ADA 2022 Dental Fee Survey data and AIHW statistics - ****Form Factor:**** Long-form reference guide with structured tables, FAQ data, and labelled cost benchmarks - ****Application Method:**** Reference before booking dental treatment; use ADA item numbers to compare itemised quotes across at least two providers

Common Questions This Guide Answers

1. What does a dental check-up and clean cost in Melbourne? → \$150–\$250; national average for exam + scale and clean + fluoride is \$219 (ADA 2022); X-rays are additional at \$30–\$80 per film
2. How much does a root canal and crown cost in Melbourne? → Root canal ranges from \$1,200–\$1,800 (front tooth) to \$1,800–\$2,800 (molar); a crown is almost always required afterward, adding \$1,500–\$2,500, bringing total molar costs to \$3,300–\$5,300+
3. Who is eligible for low-cost public dental care in Victoria? → Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card holders aged 18+, dependants of cardholders, young people aged 13–17 on qualifying cards, and children in DFFH out-of-home care; fees start at approximately \$31 per visit, capped at \$394 for specialist courses of care at the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the average cost of a dental check-up and clean in Melbourne: \$150–\$250

What is the national average cost for a check-up, scale and clean, and fluoride: \$219

What is the cheapest recorded price for a check-up, scale and clean, and fluoride nationally: \$162

What is the most expensive recorded price for a check-up, scale and clean, and fluoride nationally: \$309

Does a standard Melbourne check-up include X-rays: No, X-rays are usually an additional charge

How much do bitewing X-rays cost per film in Melbourne: \$30–\$80 per film

What is the average private health insurance rebate for a routine check-up: \$124

How much does a small composite filling cost in Melbourne: \$200–\$280

How much does a large composite filling (3+ surfaces) cost in Melbourne: \$350–\$500+

How much does an amalgam filling cost in Melbourne: \$150–\$300

What is the most common filling material used in Melbourne practices: Composite (tooth-coloured) resin

How much did dental fees increase between July 2020 and July 2022: 3.7%

How much does a root canal on a front tooth cost in Melbourne: \$1,200–\$1,800

How much does a root canal on a molar cost in Melbourne: \$1,800–\$2,800

Is a crown usually required after root canal treatment: Yes

How much does a crown typically add to root canal treatment costs: \$1,500–\$2,000

How much does a porcelain crown cost in Melbourne: \$1,200–\$2,500

How much does a zirconia crown cost in Melbourne: \$1,500–\$3,500

How much does a CEREC same-day crown cost in Melbourne: \$1,400–\$2,800

Are CEREC crowns more expensive than traditional crowns: Yes, by \$100–\$300

Does a CEREC crown require a second appointment: No

How much does a dental bridge cost in Melbourne: \$4,500–\$6,500

What is the most common dental bridge configuration: Three-unit bridge (two crowns and one pontic)

Does a bridge require alteration of adjacent healthy teeth: Yes

How much does simple wisdom tooth removal cost per tooth in Melbourne: \$400–\$550

How much does surgical wisdom tooth removal cost per tooth in Melbourne: \$500–\$750

How much does complex wisdom tooth removal (full bony impaction) cost per tooth: \$750–\$1,500+

How much does a CBCT 3D scan cost for wisdom teeth assessment: \$150–\$300

How much does full wisdom tooth removal (all four teeth) typically cost: \$1,600–\$3,400+

Does the wisdom tooth price range include X-rays: No

How much does in-chair professional teeth whitening cost in Melbourne: \$600–\$1,000

How much does a dentist-prescribed take-home whitening kit cost: \$300–\$600

Is teeth whitening covered by private health insurance: No

How much do composite veneers cost per tooth in Melbourne: \$400–\$1,200

How much do porcelain veneers cost per tooth in Melbourne: \$1,400–\$3,000

Are porcelain veneers covered by private health insurance: No, classified as cosmetic

Are composite veneers covered by private health insurance: No, classified as cosmetic in almost all cases

Are dental fees regulated by the Australian government: No

Do Melbourne CBD dental practices charge more than suburban practices: Yes, typically

What percentage of Australians avoid or delay dental care due to cost: Around 30% (3 in 10)

How many Australians were hospitalised for preventable dental conditions in 2022–23: 87,410

What percentage of total dental expenditure do individuals fund directly: 61% (2022–23)

What is the primary document to request before committing to dental treatment: Itemised fee estimate with ADA item numbers

What are ADA item numbers: Five-digit codes identifying specific dental procedures

Does specialist training affect dental fees: Yes, specialists typically charge more than general dentists

Does practice location within Melbourne affect dental fees: Yes, CBD practices charge more due to higher overheads

Does dental laboratory quality affect crown costs: Yes, premium Australian labs cost more than offshore labs

Who is eligible for public dental care in Victoria: Concession card holders and eligible dependants

What is the minimum fee for public dental care in Victoria: Approximately \$31 per visit

What is the maximum fee for specialist services at the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne: \$394 per course of care

Is public dental care free for children aged 0–17 with a concession card: Yes

Does the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne have a waiting list: Yes, for non-urgent care

Are there priority groups with no waiting list for public dental care: Yes

Who qualifies as a priority group for public dental care: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, homeless individuals, and those with registered mental health or disability services

What are the two public dental waiting lists in Victoria: General Waiting List and Denture Waiting List

Does Medicare cover dental care for eligible children: Yes, via the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)

Does the Child Dental Benefits Schedule cover orthodontic treatment: No

Does the Child Dental Benefits Schedule cover cosmetic dental work: No

Are most Child Dental Benefits Schedule services bulk billed: Yes

What does routine private health insurance dental cover typically include: Examinations, cleaning, X-rays, fluoride, and simple fillings

What does major private health insurance dental cover typically include: Crowns, complex fillings, bridges, implants, and dentures

What percentage of insured Australians avoided dental care due to cost: 19%

What percentage of uninsured Australians avoided dental care due to cost: 47%

What was the average individual out-of-pocket dental spend over 12 months: \$291 (excluding insurance premiums)

How much can a routine check-up cost compared to a delayed treatment: \$200 check-up versus \$2,000+ treatment

How many hospitalisations for dental conditions were preventable in 2022–23: Over 87,000

How many hospitalisations for dental conditions occurred in 2013–14 for comparison: 63,910

What is the recommended strategy for comparing dental costs across providers: Use ADA item numbers to compare itemised quotes

How many practices should you compare quotes from for major treatments: At least two

Do most Melbourne dental practices offer payment plans: Yes

Can timing treatment to health fund annual limits reduce costs: Yes

What is the ADA item number for a periodic oral examination: Item 012

What is the ADA item number for scale and clean: Item 114

What is the ADA item number for fluoride treatment: Item 121

What is the ADA item number for basic bitewing X-rays: Item 022

Why dental costs in Melbourne vary — and what you should actually expect to pay

Knowing what dental treatment costs before you book isn't just about budgeting. It directly shapes whether Australians seek care at all.

Around 3 in 10 Australians aged 18 and over avoid or delay dental care because of cost, according to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), drawing on data from the National Dental Telephone Interview Survey 2021 conducted by the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health at the University of Adelaide. The consequences are real: hospitalisations for preventable dental conditions reached 87,410 in 2022–23, up from 63,910 in 2013–14.

This guide exists to close that information gap. It provides verified, current price ranges for every major dental treatment category in Melbourne — from a routine check-up and clean through to root canals, crowns, bridges, and cosmetic procedures — and explains why two clinics can quote very different fees for the same item number. It also covers public dental options available to eligible Victorians.

> **Important caveat:** Australia has no regulated fee schedule for private dental care. Dentists set their own prices, with no government regulation of fees, which produces significant price variation between providers and regions. All price ranges below are market benchmarks drawn from current data, not fixed rates. Always request an itemised fee estimate with ADA item numbers before committing to treatment.

The Melbourne dental cost picture

Individuals directly fund 61% of total dental expenditure in Australia — that figure is from 2022–23. In Melbourne, the city's cost-of-living dynamics push this further. Dental fees in major cities like Sydney, Melbourne, and Brisbane tend to run higher than in regional or rural areas, because running a practice in an urban centre costs more: rent, wages, and overheads all factor in.

Within Melbourne itself, CBD and inner-city practices typically sit at the upper end of fee ranges. A suburban practice in Footscray or Frankston may charge meaningfully less than one on Collins Street for an identical procedure performed to the same clinical standard.

Melbourne dental costs by treatment category (2025)

Routine check-up and clean

A standard check-up combines an oral examination, scale and clean, and often a fluoride treatment and bitewing X-rays.

According to ADA 2022 data, the average cost of a periodic check-up including an examination, scale and clean, and fluoride treatment (item numbers 012, 114, and 121) is around \$219 nationally. But there's a wide spread — the cheapest recorded price for those three items is \$162, the most expensive \$309.

In Melbourne specifically, expect to pay \$150–\$250 for a standard appointment, with CBD clinics generally at the higher end.

What's typically included: - Oral examination (item 011 or 012) - Scale and clean (item 114) - Fluoride treatment (item 121) — at many but not all practices - Basic bitewing X-rays (item 022) — usually an additional charge of \$30–\$80 per film

The average private health insurance rebate for a routine check-up covering exam, scale and clean, and fluoride is \$124.

Dental fillings

Filling costs vary based on the tooth's location, the material used, and how many surfaces are involved.

| Filling type | Typical Melbourne range | |---|---| | Small composite (1 surface, front tooth) | \$200–\$280 |
| Medium composite (2 surfaces, back tooth) | \$250–\$380 | | Large composite (3+ surfaces) |
\$350–\$500+ | | Amalgam (silver, less common) | \$150–\$300 |

Composite (tooth-coloured) fillings are now the dominant choice in Melbourne practices. The ADA's 2022 Dental Fee Survey data, cited by CHOICE, shows that fees charged by general practitioners increased by just 3.7% over the two years from July 2020 to July 2022 — well below CPI — suggesting fees remained relatively stable in real terms, though cost-of-living pressures on practices in 2024–25 are likely to push them modestly higher.

Root canal treatment

Root canal therapy is required when the pulp of a tooth becomes infected or irreversibly inflamed. Cost varies significantly based on which tooth is being treated — front teeth (single canal) are less complex and less expensive than molars (three or four canals).

Root canals typically cost between \$1,200 and \$2,800, though a dentist's experience and the technology used can influence the final figure.

A crown is almost always required after root canal treatment to protect the weakened tooth, adding a further \$1,500–\$2,000 to the total cost (see Crowns below). Patients referred to a specialist endodontist will generally pay at the upper end of this range or beyond. For more on when specialist referral is warranted, see our guide on **Specialist Dentistry in Melbourne: Periodontists, Endodontists, Prosthodontists, Oral Surgeons & Paediatric Dentists**.

Dental crowns

Crowns are used to restore teeth that are cracked, heavily filled, or weakened after root canal treatment. The material chosen has a significant effect on cost — porcelain and zirconia crowns tend to cost more because of their durability and appearance.

Crown costs in Melbourne range from \$900–\$3,500 per tooth depending on material. Porcelain crowns typically run \$1,200–\$2,500; premium zirconia crowns range from \$1,500–\$3,500.

CEREC same-day crowns typically cost \$100–\$300 more than traditional crowns, ranging from \$1,400–\$2,800. They eliminate the need for a temporary crown and a second appointment, which many patients find worth the modest premium.

Additional costs may include a consultation (\$100–\$200), X-rays (\$50–\$150), root canal treatment if needed (\$1,500–\$2,500), and post and core build-up (\$300–\$600). Always request a comprehensive treatment estimate before beginning crown treatment.

For a full clinical explanation of when crowns are indicated, see our guide on **Restorative Dentistry in Melbourne: Crowns, Bridges, Root Canals & Dentures — When You Need Them**.

Dental bridges

A bridge replaces one or more missing teeth by anchoring to the adjacent natural teeth with crowns, which support the artificial tooth (pontic) in between.

Bridges range from \$4,500 to \$6,500, with total cost varying based on the number of units, the material chosen, and whether preparatory work such as root canal treatment is required on the anchor teeth.

A three-unit bridge (two crowns and one pontic) is the most common configuration. Patients comparing bridges to implants should note that while implants carry a higher upfront cost, they don't require alteration of adjacent healthy teeth. For a detailed breakdown of implant costs, see our guide on **Dental Implant Costs in Melbourne: Single Implants, All-on-4 & Full Arch Pricing Explained**.

Wisdom tooth removal

Wisdom tooth removal typically costs between \$400 and \$850 per tooth, depending on the complexity of the extraction and whether the procedure is performed by a general dentist or a specialist. This range does not include preliminary procedures such as 3D scans or X-rays.

Key cost drivers: - Simple erupted extraction: \$400–\$550 per tooth (general dentist) - Surgical extraction (partial impaction): \$500–\$750 per tooth - Complex surgical extraction (full bony impaction): \$750–\$1,500+ per tooth (may require an oral surgeon) - CBCT 3D scan (if required): \$150–\$300

Most patients have four wisdom teeth, so total costs for full removal under local anaesthesia can range from \$1,600 to \$3,400+. IV sedation or general anaesthesia adds further cost. For a complete clinical guide including recovery and anaesthesia options, see our guide on **Wisdom Teeth Removal in Melbourne: Procedure, Recovery, Costs & When Extraction Is Necessary**.

Cosmetic dental treatments

Cosmetic procedures are almost universally excluded from private health insurance rebates, so full out-of-pocket payment is the norm.

****Teeth whitening**** - In-chair professional whitening: \$600–\$1,000 - Take-home whitening kit (dentist-prescribed): \$300–\$600

****Composite veneers****

Composite resin veneers are more affordable than porcelain, ranging from \$400 to \$1,200 per tooth in Melbourne. This covers the application of the composite resin material and any necessary follow-up

appointments.

****Porcelain veneers****

Porcelain veneers in Melbourne typically range from \$1,400 to \$3,000 per tooth, including preparatory procedures, consultations, and follow-up appointments.

Most private health insurance plans classify veneers as cosmetic and don't cover them — this applies to both composite and porcelain veneers in almost all cases.

For a full side-by-side comparison of cosmetic treatments, see our guide on [*Cosmetic Dentistry Melbourne: Veneers, Teeth Whitening, Bonding & Smile Makeovers Compared*](#).

Melbourne dental cost summary table

| Treatment | Typical Melbourne range | Notes | |---|---|---| | Check-up + scale & clean | \$150–\$250 | | X-rays extra (\$30–\$80/film) | | Composite filling (small) | \$200–\$280 | Per surface; material affects cost | | Composite filling (large) | \$350–\$500+ | 3+ surfaces, back tooth | | Root canal (front tooth) | \$1,200–\$1,800 | Crown usually required after | | Root canal (molar) | \$1,800–\$2,800 | Higher complexity, more canals | | Porcelain/zirconia crown | \$1,500–\$2,500 | CEREC same-day: \$1,400–\$2,800 | | Dental bridge (3-unit) | \$4,500–\$6,500 | Excludes any root canal work | | Wisdom tooth removal (simple) | \$400–\$550 | Per tooth, local anaesthesia | | Wisdom tooth removal (surgical) | \$600–\$1,500 | Per tooth; specialist may be required | | Composite veneers | \$400–\$1,200 | Per tooth | | Porcelain veneers | \$1,400–\$3,000 | Per tooth | | In-chair teeth whitening | \$600–\$1,000 | Not covered by insurance | | Take-home whitening kit | \$300–\$600 | Dentist-prescribed |

What drives fee variation in Melbourne?

Understanding why two practices can quote very different prices for the same treatment helps you make a genuinely informed comparison.

1. Practice location

Clinics in the Melbourne CBD or affluent suburbs carry higher operational costs, and those costs show up in treatment prices. A practice paying premium commercial rent will typically charge more than an equivalent practice in an outer suburb, even with identical clinical standards.

2. Specialist qualifications vs. general dentist

A registered specialist endodontist performing a root canal will charge more than a general dentist, and for complex cases that reflects genuine additional training and equipment. Similarly, a dentist with advanced training in orthodontics or periodontics will have higher fees than a general practitioner for those specific services.

3. Technology and equipment

Practices with CBCT scanners, CEREC in-house milling, digital smile design software, and intraoral cameras carry higher capital costs, which feed into fees. That said, these technologies often improve diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes, so the premium isn't purely cosmetic.

4. Laboratory fees

Custom crowns are made in a dental laboratory, and the lab's quality and location affect the overall cost. Practices using premium Australian dental labs will typically charge more than those using offshore laboratories — worth asking about directly for crowns, bridges, and veneers.

5. Procedure complexity

More straightforward services like cleaning and basic fillings cost less. Specialised procedures such as root canals, crowns, or implants cost more because of the advanced techniques, materials, and chair time involved.

Public dental options in Melbourne

For eligible Victorians, the public dental system offers significant cost savings — but with real trade-offs around waiting times and treatment scope.

The Royal Dental Hospital of Melbourne (RDHM)

Public dental services are provided through the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne (RDHM) and over 40 integrated and registered community health services across Victoria. The RDHM provides general, specialist, and emergency dental care to all eligible Victorians.

****Eligibility:**** People eligible for public dental care include: adults aged 18 and over who hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, or who are dependants of concession card holders; young people aged 13–17 who hold a Healthcare or Pensioner Concession Card or are dependants of cardholders; and all children and young people in out-of-home care provided by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), up to age 18.

****Fees:**** Victoria's public dental fees start at around \$31 per visit for general care. Fees for specialist services at the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne depend on the treatment and won't exceed \$394 for a course of care.

Children and young people aged 0–17 who hold a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, or who are dependants of cardholders, are not charged fees.

****Waiting lists:**** Public dental services operate a waiting list for non-urgent care. The two lists are the General Waiting List (for all people seeking care unless they have no natural teeth or meet the criteria for priority dentures) and the Denture Waiting List. People are treated in the order they are placed on the list.

Priority groups — including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, homeless individuals, and those registered with mental health or disability services — have no waiting list for general dental care and receive the next available appointment.

Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)

Medicare covers part or all of the cost of some dental services for children who meet the eligibility requirements. The Child Dental Benefits Schedule covers standard dental services but does not cover orthodontic treatment, cosmetic dental work, or any dental services provided in a hospital. Most CDBS services are bulk billed, meaning no out-of-pocket charge.

For a detailed breakdown of children's dental entitlements, see our guide on [*Children's Dentistry in Melbourne: First Visits, Fissure Sealants, Orthodontic Screening & the Child Dental Benefits Schedule*](#).

How private health insurance affects your out-of-pocket costs

Routine dental cover typically includes X-rays, examinations, cleaning and polishing, fluoride treatment, and simple fillings. Major dental cover typically includes complex fillings, crowns, veneers, bridgework, implants, and dentures.

Insured Australians are significantly less likely to avoid or delay dental care due to cost than uninsured Australians — 19% versus 47%. But insurance isn't a complete solution: individuals spent an average of \$291 on dental services over a 12-month period, not including premiums paid for private health insurance.

The most practical approach is to use ADA item numbers (the five-digit codes on every dental invoice) to compare costs across providers, and check your fund's benefit schedule before treatment starts, not after. For a complete guide to maximising rebates, see our guide on [*Private Health Insurance & Dental in Melbourne: What's Covered, How to Maximise Rebates & Gap-Free Options*](#).

The cost of deferring treatment

Skipping dental visits may look like a saving, but it tends to produce more expensive problems later. Routine check-ups catch cavities, gum disease, and oral cancer early, and professional cleaning removes plaque and tartar that brushing can't reach. A \$200 check-up today can prevent a \$2,000 treatment down the track.

This isn't a marketing line — it's backed by national data. In 2022–23, over 87,000 hospitalisations for dental conditions could have been avoided with earlier treatment, according to the AIHW. The cost of treating a dental abscess requiring hospitalisation is far higher than the routine check-up that could have prevented it.

Key takeaways

- **Check-up and clean:** The ADA's 2022 Dental Fee Survey puts the national average at \$219 for an examination, scale and clean, and fluoride treatment. Melbourne CBD practices typically sit at \$200–\$250; suburban practices are often lower. - **Major restorative work is expensive:** Root canals range from \$1,200–\$2,800 and almost always require a subsequent crown (\$1,500–\$2,500), meaning a single compromised molar can cost \$3,000–\$5,000+ to restore fully. - **Location, technology, and specialist qualifications are the primary drivers of fee variation** within Melbourne — not quality alone. CBD premiums, in-house milling equipment, and specialist training all contribute to higher fees that may or may not be clinically necessary for your situation. - **Public dental care via the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne** is available to concession card holders at fees starting from approximately \$31 per visit, with specialist services capped at \$394 per course of care — but non-priority patients face waiting lists. - **Deferring dental care is the most expensive option:** 30% of Australians already delay care due to cost, contributing to tens of thousands of preventable hospitalisations each year.

Conclusion

Melbourne's dental fee market is wide, variable, and genuinely hard to navigate without a reference point. This guide provides one: verified price benchmarks across every major treatment category, grounded in ADA survey data, AIHW statistics, and current Melbourne market pricing.

The most important step any Melbourne resident can take is to request itemised quotes using ADA item numbers, compare at least two practices for major treatments, and check their private health insurance benefits before treatment begins. For patients without insurance or concession eligibility, payment plans (available at most Melbourne practices) and timing treatment to align with health fund annual limits can meaningfully reduce the financial burden.

For related guidance, explore our complete series: [*General Dentistry in Melbourne*](#), [*Restorative Dentistry in Melbourne*](#), [*Dental Implant Costs in Melbourne*](#), and [*How to Choose a Dentist in Melbourne: 10 Questions to Ask Before Booking*](#).

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Label facts summary

> ****Disclaimer:**** The figures below are market benchmarks and statistical data drawn from cited sources (ADA, AIHW, [health.vic.gov.au](https://www.health.vic.gov.au), Medicare); they are not fixed prices or professional advice. Consult a registered dental professional for treatment-specific guidance.

Verified label facts

****ADA item numbers (procedure codes)**** - Periodic oral examination: Item 012 - Scale and clean: Item 114 - Fluoride treatment: Item 121 - Basic bitewing X-rays: Item 022

****ADA Dental Fee Survey 2022 — national data**** - National average cost (examination + scale and clean + fluoride, items 012/114/121): \$219 - Lowest recorded price for the same three items nationally: \$162 - Highest recorded price for the same three items nationally: \$309 - Dental fees increased by 3.7% between July 2020 and July 2022

****Melbourne market price ranges (current benchmarks)**** - Routine check-up and clean: \$150–\$250 - Bitewing X-rays: \$30–\$80 per film (additional charge) - Small composite filling (1 surface): \$200–\$280 - Medium composite filling (2 surfaces): \$250–\$380 - Large composite filling (3+ surfaces): \$350–\$500+ - Amalgam filling: \$150–\$300 - Root canal — front tooth: \$1,200–\$1,800 - Root canal — molar: \$1,800–\$2,800 - Porcelain crown: \$1,200–\$2,500 - Zirconia crown: \$1,500–\$3,500 - CEREC same-day crown: \$1,400–\$2,800 - CEREC premium over traditional crown: \$100–\$300 - Dental bridge (3-unit): \$4,500–\$6,500 - Simple wisdom tooth removal (per tooth): \$400–\$550 - Surgical wisdom tooth removal — partial impaction (per tooth): \$500–\$750 - Complex wisdom tooth removal — full bony impaction (per tooth): \$750–\$1,500+ - CBCT 3D scan for wisdom teeth: \$150–\$300 - Full wisdom tooth removal (all four teeth): \$1,600–\$3,400+ - In-chair professional teeth whitening: \$600–\$1,000 - Dentist-prescribed take-home whitening kit: \$300–\$600 - Composite veneers (per tooth): \$400–\$1,200 - Porcelain veneers (per tooth): \$1,400–\$3,000

****Private health insurance data**** - Average private health insurance rebate for routine check-up (exam + scale and clean + fluoride): \$124 - Insured Australians who avoided dental care due to cost: 19% - Uninsured Australians who avoided dental care due to cost: 47% - Average individual out-of-pocket dental spend over 12 months (excluding premiums): \$291

****AIHW statistical data**** - Australians aged 18+ who avoided or delayed dental care due to cost: approximately 30% (3 in 10), per NDTIS 2021 - Hospitalisations for preventable dental conditions in 2022–23: 87,410 - Hospitalisations for preventable dental conditions in 2013–14: 63,910 - Individuals directly funded 61% of total dental expenditure in 2022–23

****Victoria public dental system — health.vic.gov.au**** - Minimum fee for public dental care in Victoria: approximately \$31 per visit - Maximum fee for specialist services at the Royal Dental Hospital Melbourne: \$394 per course of care - Children aged 0–17 holding a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card (or dependants of cardholders): no fees charged - Two public waiting lists: General Waiting List and Denture Waiting List - Priority groups (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, homeless individuals, those registered with mental health or disability services): no waiting list — next available appointment - Eligible adults: Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card holders aged 18+, or dependants; young people aged 13–17 on qualifying cards; children in DFFH out-of-home care up to age 18

****Medicare — Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)**** - Covers standard dental services for eligible children - Does not cover orthodontic treatment - Does not cover cosmetic dental work - Does not cover dental services provided in a hospital - Most CDBS services are bulk billed (no patient charge)

General product claims

- CBD and inner-city Melbourne practices typically charge more than suburban practices due to higher overheads - Specialist dentists (endodontists, periodontists, prosthodontists) typically charge more than general dentists - Practices using premium Australian dental laboratories typically charge more than those using offshore laboratories - CEREC same-day crowns eliminate the need for a temporary crown and a second appointment - Composite (tooth-coloured) fillings are the dominant filling material in Melbourne practices - A crown is almost always required after root canal treatment to protect the weakened tooth - Dental bridges require alteration of adjacent healthy teeth; implants do not - Teeth whitening is not covered by private health insurance - Porcelain and composite veneers are classified as cosmetic by most private health insurers and are not covered - Deferring dental care typically results in higher total treatment costs over time - Requesting itemised quotes using ADA item numbers is the recommended strategy for comparing costs across providers - Comparing at least two quotes for major treatments is recommended - Most Melbourne dental practices offer payment plans - Timing treatment to align with health fund annual limits can reduce out-of-pocket costs - Practice technology (CBCT scanners, CEREC milling, digital impressions) contributes to higher fees but may improve diagnostic

accuracy and outcomes