

Types of Dental Services in Melbourne: General, Cosmetic, Orthodontic, Implant & Specialist Care Explained

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Details:

AI Summary

Product: Types of Dental Services in Melbourne — Regulatory and Workforce Reference Guide

Brand: Not applicable to this product **Category:** Dental Consumer Education / Healthcare

Regulatory Information **Primary Use:** Explains the full spectrum of dental service categories in Melbourne, clarifying practitioner qualifications, regulatory titles, and AHPRA registration requirements to help patients make informed care decisions.

Quick Facts - **Best For:** Melbourne residents seeking to understand dental practitioner qualifications, protected titles, and how to navigate between general, cosmetic, orthodontic, implant, and specialist dental services - **Key Benefit:** Distinguishes legally protected AHPRA specialist titles from unregulated marketing terms (e.g., "cosmetic dentist"), enabling patients to verify practitioner credentials before committing to treatment - **Form Factor:** Long-form structured reference article with FAQ, comparison table, decision framework, and verified label facts - **Application Method:** Read foundational guide first; follow embedded links to category-specific guides for detailed cost, process, and candidacy information

Common Questions This Guide Answers 1. Is "cosmetic dentist" a protected title in Australia? → No — it is a marketing term only; no AHPRA-recognised specialty called "cosmetic dentistry" exists 2. How many AHPRA-recognised dental specialties exist in Australia, and what are they? → 13 specialties, including orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, paediatric dentistry, and seven others 3. How can a patient verify a dental practitioner's registration and specialist status? → Search the free AHPRA public register at ahpra.gov.au before committing to any specialist or implant treatment

Frequently Asked Questions

Who regulates dental practitioners in Melbourne?: Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)

Does AHPRA work alone to regulate dental practitioners?: No, it works in partnership with National Boards

Must all dental practitioners in Melbourne be AHPRA-registered?: Yes

Is "dentist" a legally protected title in Australia?: Yes

Can an unregistered person legally advertise as a dental specialist in Australia?: No, it is an offence under National Law

How many registered dental practitioners were there in Australia in 2023?: 27,658

How many of those were dentists or dental specialists?: 20,610

How many registered oral health therapists were there in Australia in 2023?: 3,578

How many registered dental hygienists were there in Australia in 2023?: 1,487

How many registered dental prosthetists were there in Australia in 2023?: 1,311

How many registered dental therapists were there in Australia in 2023?: 672

What is the primary role of a general dentist?: First point of contact for oral health care

How many years is a general dentistry undergraduate degree in Australia?: Four years

How many years is a general dentistry postgraduate degree in Australia?: Five years

Can a general dentist perform root canal therapy?: Yes, for straightforward cases

Can a general dentist offer teeth whitening?: Yes

Does offering teeth whitening make a general dentist a "cosmetic dentist"?: No

Does offering Invisalign make a general dentist an orthodontist?: No

Is "cosmetic dentist" a protected regulatory title in Australia?: No

Is "cosmetic dentistry" an AHPRA-recognised specialty?: No

Is "cosmetic dentist" a marketing term?: Yes

Should patients treat "cosmetic dentist" as proof of specialist qualification?: No

Who is best suited for complex full-mouth aesthetic rehabilitation?: A registered prosthodontist

Is orthodontics an AHPRA-recognised dental specialty in Australia?: Yes

How many dental specialties are officially recognised in Australia?: 13

What additional training does a specialist orthodontist complete beyond their dental degree?: Minimum three-year full-time postgraduate clinical programme

Can general dentists legally provide aligner therapy in Australia?: Yes

Who should treat complex malocclusion and jaw discrepancies?: A registered specialist orthodontist

What fraction of employed dentists in Australia were specialists in 2023?: Approximately 9.5% (1 in 10)

What is the largest group of dental specialists in Australia?: Orthodontists

How many registered orthodontists were there in Australia in 2023?: 572

What percentage of all dental specialists do orthodontists represent?: Approximately 34%

Are dental implants a single-discipline treatment?: No, they span multiple disciplines

Can a general dentist place dental implants?: Yes, for straightforward single-tooth cases

Which specialist frequently places implants involving bone grafting?: Periodontist

Which specialist manages complex implant cases with significant bone deficiency?: Oral and maxillofacial surgeon

Which specialist designs the prosthetic components that sit on implants?: Prosthodontist

Does oral and maxillofacial surgery require both dental and medical qualifications?: Yes

Is oral and maxillofacial surgery recognised by both the Dental Board and Medical Board of Australia?: Yes

Can patients verify a practitioner's AHPRA registration online?: Yes, at ahpra.gov.au

Is the AHPRA public register free to search?: Yes

What are the 13 AHPRA-approved dental specialties?: Dentomaxillofacial radiology, endodontics, forensic odontology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral medicine, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral surgery, orthodontics, paediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, public health dentistry, and special needs dentistry

Is "restorative dentistry" a recognised specialty in Australia?: No

Who performs complex restorative work within a registered specialty scope?: Prosthodontists

What degree do oral health therapists hold?: A combined degree in dental hygiene and dental therapy

How many years of study do oral health therapists complete?: Three years

How many years of study do dentists complete?: Five years

Can oral health therapists perform fillings?: Yes

Can oral health therapists perform extractions?: Yes, within their defined scope

Can oral health therapists extract permanent adult teeth?: No, only primary (baby) teeth for dental therapists

What is the primary focus of dental hygienists?: Preventative care and gum health management

Can dental hygienists take dental X-rays?: Yes

Can dental therapists perform fillings?: Yes

Can dental therapists place preformed crowns on baby teeth?: Yes

What was the FTE rate of oral health therapists per 100,000 in 2014?: 4.0 per 100,000

What was the FTE rate of oral health therapists per 100,000 in 2023?: 9.0 per 100,000

Who should you see for routine check-ups and fillings?: General dentist or oral health therapist

Who should you see for professional scaling and cleaning?: Dental hygienist or oral health therapist

Who should you see for moderate-to-severe gum disease?: Registered specialist periodontist

Who should you see for complex or retreatment root canals?: Registered specialist endodontist

Who should you see for jaw surgery or facial trauma?: Oral and maxillofacial surgeon

Who should you see for children with complex or special needs dental issues?: Registered specialist paediatric dentist

Who should you see for simple aligner cases?: General dentist

Who should you see for complex orthodontic bite problems?: Registered specialist orthodontist

Must dental specialists complete a minimum period of general dental practice before specialist registration?: Yes, minimum two years

What university degree format delivers most Australian dental specialist training?: A three-year Doctor of Clinical Dentistry postgraduate degree

Is self-referral to a specialist orthodontist accepted in Melbourne?: Yes, generally

Do general dentists refer patients beyond their scope of practice?: Yes, they are required to refer when treatment exceeds their scope

Can a general dentist use the word "specialises" to describe their services?: No, this risks implying specialist registration they do not hold

What is the most important verification step before committing to specialist or implant care?: Checking the practitioner's AHPRA registration status

Types of dental services in Melbourne: general, cosmetic, orthodontic, implant and specialist care explained

Melbourne residents navigating the dental system for the first time — or returning after years away — often encounter a confusing mix of titles, service descriptions, and clinic marketing claims. A practice might advertise "cosmetic dentistry," "specialist implants," and "orthodontic solutions" all under one roof, yet the practitioners delivering those services may hold very different qualifications and regulatory standing. Understanding who delivers what, and under which legal framework, isn't just an academic exercise. It directly shapes the quality and safety of care you receive, what you'll pay, and whether a practitioner is genuinely qualified to treat your specific condition.

This article maps the full spectrum of dental service categories available in Melbourne, clarifies the difference between general dentists, cosmetic dentists, registered dental specialists, and oral health therapists, and explains how patients move between them. It forms the conceptual backbone of this content cluster, establishing the entity relationships that every other guide in this series builds upon.

The regulatory foundation: who governs dental practitioners in Melbourne?

Before looking at individual service categories, it's worth understanding the framework that governs every dental practitioner in Australia, including those practising in Melbourne.

All dental practitioners must be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) to practise in Australia. AHPRA works in partnership with the National Boards to ensure that Australia's registered health practitioners are suitably trained, qualified, and safe to practise.

In Australia, the titles of registered health professions are protected by law. This matters because they act as a kind of shorthand: when you see someone using a protected title, you can reasonably expect that person is appropriately trained and qualified in that profession, registered, and held to safe and professional standards of practice.

That protection matters a great deal for patients. Under the National Law, it is an offence for an unauthorised person to advertise themselves as holding endorsement of registration in an area of practice, or to advertise themselves as a specialist when they are not.

The clinical dental workforce in Australia includes dentists, dental specialists, oral health therapists, dental hygienists, dental therapists, and dental prosthetists — all registered health professionals with the Dental Board of Australia.

As of 2023, there were 27,658 registered dental practitioners in Australia. The majority were dentists and dental specialists (20,610), with oral health therapists the next largest group (3,578), followed by dental hygienists (1,487), dental prosthetists (1,311), and dental therapists (672).

Category 1: General dentistry — the foundation of oral healthcare

What is a general dentist?

A general dentist is the primary care provider of the dental system — the first point of contact for most Australians seeking oral health care. Dentists prevent, diagnose, and treat problems of the mouth, teeth, and gums across all areas of dentistry, completing a four-year undergraduate or five-year postgraduate degree at university.

Primary care dentistry is predominantly focused on the treatment and prevention of dental caries and periodontal disease.

What services does a general dentist provide?

A general dentist in Melbourne works across a broad clinical scope, including:

- Comprehensive oral examinations and diagnosis - Scale and clean (prophylaxis) - Dental fillings (composite resin and amalgam) - Fissure sealants and fluoride treatments - Oral cancer screening - Simple tooth extractions - Basic restorative work (crowns, bridges, dentures) - Root canal therapy (for straightforward cases) - Dental X-rays and digital imaging - Referral to registered specialists when treatment falls outside their scope

General dentists may also offer cosmetic treatments such as teeth whitening and composite bonding, and aligner therapy such as Invisalign — but doing so doesn't make them "cosmetic dentists" or "orthodontists" in any registered sense. That distinction is explored below.

(For a detailed breakdown of what happens at a routine check-up and clean in Melbourne, see our guide on General Dentistry in Melbourne: What to Expect from Check-Ups, Cleans, Fillings & Preventive Care.)

Category 2: Cosmetic dentistry — an unregistered specialisation

The critical distinction patients must understand

"Cosmetic dentistry" is one of the most widely used — and most misunderstood — terms in Australian dental marketing. Patients often assume it points to a formal qualification or registration category. It doesn't.

In Australia, a dentist cannot register as a specialist cosmetic dentist. There is no AHPRA-recognised specialty called "cosmetic dentistry." Any general dentist who describes themselves as a "cosmetic dentist" is using a marketing term, not a protected regulatory title — regardless of whatever additional training they may have completed.

This doesn't mean cosmetic dental services are unregulated or unsafe. It means patients should verify the practitioner's general AHPRA registration and assess their specific experience with the procedure in question, rather than treating the label "cosmetic dentist" as a proxy for specialist qualification.

What cosmetic dental services are available in Melbourne?

Cosmetic dental services focus on improving the appearance of the smile. Common treatments available at Melbourne practices include:

- Porcelain veneers — thin ceramic shells bonded to the front of teeth - Composite veneers — a more affordable, direct-placed alternative - In-chair and take-home teeth whitening - Dental bonding — composite resin used to reshape or repair teeth - Gum contouring (gum lifts) - Smile makeovers — coordinated treatment plans combining multiple aesthetic procedures

Who delivers cosmetic dental services?

Cosmetic treatments are delivered by general dentists with varying levels of aesthetic training, or in some cases by registered specialists such as prosthodontists — who hold formal AHPRA specialist registration and are particularly well-suited to complex full-mouth aesthetic rehabilitation.

(For a side-by-side comparison of cosmetic treatments — including cost ranges, durability, and candidacy — see our guide on Cosmetic Dentistry Melbourne: Veneers, Teeth Whitening, Bonding & Smile Makeovers Compared.)

Category 3: Orthodontic services — registered specialists vs general dentists

What is orthodontics?

Orthodontics is both a clinical service category and one of Australia's 13 formally recognised dental specialties. It covers the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of dental and facial irregularities — including malocclusion (misaligned bite), crowding, spacing, and skeletal jaw discrepancies. Orthodontists help correctly align teeth, bites, and jaws, including straightening teeth.

The specialist vs general dentist distinction

This is where patient confusion tends to run deepest. Both registered specialist orthodontists and general dentists offering aligner therapy can straighten teeth — but their qualifications, scope, and clinical depth differ considerably.

Only a practitioner with specialist registration in an approved specialty may use the protected title of a specialist. General dental practitioners must avoid using terms like "specialises in," "specialty," or "specialised," because doing so risks misleading patients into believing the practitioner holds a form of specialist registration sanctioned by the National Law.

In 2023, around 1 in 10 (9.5%) employed dentists were specialists. The largest group of dental specialists in Australia were orthodontists (572), making up around one-third (34%) of all dental specialists.

A registered specialist orthodontist has completed their primary dental degree plus a minimum three-year full-time postgraduate clinical training programme in orthodontics, approved by the Australian Dental Council and the Dental Board of Australia. For most specialties, that training is delivered through a Doctor of Clinical Dentistry degree — a postgraduate programme administered through six Australian dental schools.

General dentists can legally provide aligner therapy and simple orthodontic treatment, but complex malocclusion, jaw discrepancies, and cases involving growth modification in children are best managed by a registered specialist orthodontist.

(For a full comparison of braces, clear aligners, and aligner systems in Melbourne — including when a specialist orthodontist is required — see our guide on Orthodontics in Melbourne: Braces vs Clear Aligners — Which Is Right for You?)

Category 4: Dental implant services — a cross-disciplinary treatment

What are dental implants?

Dental implants are titanium posts surgically placed into the jawbone to replace the root structure of a missing tooth, upon which a crown, bridge, or full-arch prosthesis is attached. Implant treatment isn't a single-discipline service — it spans oral surgery, prosthodontics, and general restorative dentistry depending on the complexity of the case.

Who provides dental implant services in Melbourne?

This is one of the most important distinctions for Melbourne patients to understand:

- **General dentists** with implant training can place and restore straightforward single-tooth implants in patients with adequate bone volume and no complicating systemic factors. - **Periodontists** (registered specialists in gum and supporting bone disease) frequently place implants, particularly in cases involving bone grafting or gum disease management. - **Oral and maxillofacial surgeons** (registered specialists holding both dental and medical degrees) manage complex implant cases involving significant bone deficiency, multiple implants, or full-arch reconstruction. - **Prosthodontists** (registered specialists in dental restoration and replacement) design and place the prosthetic components — crowns, bridges, and full-arch restorations — that sit on top of implants.

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is recognised by both the Dental Board of Australia and the Medical Board of Australia, and practitioners must hold qualifications in both medicine and dentistry.

Because multiple disciplines may be involved, the implant journey in Melbourne varies significantly depending on case complexity. Patients should ask any implant provider to clearly identify their AHPRA registration type and, where a specialist is involved, verify their registration on the public AHPRA register.

(For the step-by-step implant process — from CBCT scan to final crown — see our guide on Dental Implants in Melbourne: The Step-by-Step Process from Consultation to Final Crown. For cost breakdowns including All-on-4 and full arch pricing, see Dental Implant Costs in Melbourne.)

Category 5: The 13 AHPRA-registered dental specialties in Melbourne

Australia has one of the world's most clearly defined dental specialist registration frameworks. The 13 approved dental specialties are: dentomaxillofacial radiology, endodontics, forensic odontology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral medicine, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral surgery, orthodontics, paediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, public health dentistry, and special needs dentistry.

The six specialties most relevant to Melbourne patients seeking clinical treatment are summarised below:

Specialty	What they treat	Referral typically required?
Orthodontics	Malocclusion, crowding, jaw alignment	Self-referral accepted; GP referral common
Periodontics	Gum disease, bone loss, implant placement	GP referral common
Endodontics	Dental pulp disease, complex root canals	GP referral common
Prosthodontics	Restoration/replacement of teeth; implant prosthetics	GP referral or self-referral
Oral & maxillofacial surgery	Jaw surgery, complex extractions, facial trauma, implants	GP or dental referral
Paediatric dentistry	Oral health care for children and adolescents, including special needs	GP referral or self-referral

All applicants for specialist registration must have completed a minimum of two years of general dental practice and meet all other requirements for general registration as a dentist.

One thing that surprises many patients: restorative dentistry is not a recognised specialty in Australia. There is no "restorative dentist" specialist title in the AHPRA register, even though prosthodontists perform complex restorative work within their registered scope.

(For an in-depth explainer on each of the six clinically relevant specialties — including when referral is required — see our guide on Specialist Dentistry in Melbourne: Periodontists, Endodontists, Prosthodontists, Oral Surgeons & Paediatric Dentists.)

Category 6: Oral health therapists, dental hygienists and dental therapists

The expanding allied dental workforce

A significant and growing part of Melbourne's dental workforce consists of oral health therapists (OHTs), dental hygienists, and dental therapists — all AHPRA-registered practitioners who work alongside dentists and deliver a defined scope of clinical services.

Oral health therapists hold a combined degree in dental hygiene and dental therapy and may work as a dental hygienist, a dental therapist, or as both. In addition to professional teeth cleaning and oral health education, an OHT can perform fillings and extractions and provide ongoing preventative care and treatment.

OHTs complete three years of undergraduate study, whilst dentists complete five — which is why dentists are qualified to perform more complex procedures, diagnoses, and referrals. For routine care such as a check-up, an OHT is fully qualified to provide the same dental hygiene services and perform the same standard procedures as a dentist.

The FTE rate of oral health therapists in Australia has grown steadily, from 4.0 per 100,000 in 2014 to 9.0 per 100,000 in 2023, reflecting their expanding role in the primary care dental workforce.

Key scope differences

Dental hygienists focus primarily on preventative care and managing gum health. They handle professional cleaning (scaling and polishing), removing plaque and tartar, and providing personalised advice on home care. Hygienists also administer fluoride treatments, place fissure sealants, and can take dental X-rays.

Dental therapists have a broader scope, combining hygienist duties with certain restorative procedures. They can perform fillings, extract primary (baby) teeth, and place preformed crowns on baby teeth — but they cannot extract permanent adult teeth.

All practitioners in this group are required to refer patients to a more appropriate practitioner when treatment falls outside their scope of practice.

How patients navigate between service categories in Melbourne

A practical decision framework

Knowing which type of practitioner to see for a given concern is one of the most useful things a Melbourne dental patient can understand. The following framework offers a practical starting point:

1. **Routine care, check-ups, fillings, and general concerns** → General dentist or oral health therapist
2. **Scaling, cleaning, gum health, and fluoride** → Dental hygienist or oral health therapist
3. **Teeth whitening, veneers, bonding, smile concerns** → General dentist with cosmetic experience, or prosthodontist for complex cases
4. **Crooked teeth, bite problems, jaw alignment** → General dentist (simple aligner cases) or registered specialist orthodontist (complex cases)
5. **Missing teeth requiring implants** → General dentist (simple cases), periodontist, oral surgeon, or prosthodontist depending on complexity
6. **Gum disease, bone loss** → General dentist for mild cases; periodontist for moderate-to-severe cases
7. **Root canal treatment** → General dentist for straightforward cases; endodontist for complex or retreatment cases
8. **Jaw surgery, facial trauma, complex extractions** → Oral and maxillofacial surgeon
9. **Children's dental care** → General dentist or oral health therapist; paediatric dentist specialist for complex or special needs cases
10. **Dental anxiety requiring sedation** → General dentist offering nitrous oxide or oral sedation; specialist anaesthetic services for intravenous sedation

Verifying your practitioner's registration

You can check any dental practitioner's registration status, qualifications, and suitability to care for you via the AHPRA public register at ahpra.gov.au. It takes under two minutes and is the single most important step a Melbourne patient can take before committing to treatment — particularly for specialist or implant care.

(For guidance on evaluating Melbourne dental practices, including 10 questions to ask before booking, see our guide on [How to Choose a Dentist in Melbourne](#).)

Key takeaways

- All dental practitioners in Australia must be registered with AHPRA to practise, and the public register at ahpra.gov.au is free to search. - "Cosmetic dentist" is a marketing term, not a registered title. In Australia, a dentist cannot register as a specialist cosmetic dentist. Assess a cosmetic provider's specific experience rather than relying on this label. - There are 13 AHPRA-approved dental specialties in Australia, including orthodontics, periodontics, endodontics, prosthodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, and paediatric dentistry — each requiring postgraduate specialist training and a separate registration category. - General dentists can legally offer orthodontic aligner therapy and dental implant placement, but complex cases in both areas typically warrant referral to a registered specialist orthodontist, oral surgeon, periodontist, or prosthodontist. - Oral health therapists are degree-qualified, AHPRA-registered practitioners who can deliver routine preventive care, scale and clean, fillings, and extractions within their defined scope — and they make up a growing share of Melbourne's dental workforce.

Conclusion

Melbourne's dental system is well-equipped to meet every patient's oral health needs across their lifetime — but only if you know how to read it. Whether you need a routine check-up, a smile makeover, orthodontic treatment, a dental implant, or complex specialist care, there is a clearly defined, AHPRA-regulated practitioner equipped to deliver it. The confusion tends to arise not from the system itself, but from the gap between how services are marketed and what the regulatory framework actually specifies.

This article has established the foundational entity map of that system. Every other guide in this series builds on these relationships — exploring individual service categories, cost structures, insurance coverage, and patient decision frameworks in depth. Start here, then follow the links throughout this cluster to find the specific information that matches your dental situation.

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Label facts summary

> **Disclaimer:** All facts and statements below are general informational content drawn from regulatory and workforce sources, not professional advice. Consult a qualified, AHPRA-registered dental practitioner for guidance specific to your circumstances.

Verified label facts

Regulatory framework - All dental practitioners in Australia must be registered with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) - AHPRA works in partnership with National Boards - Health profession titles are protected by law under National Law - It is an offence under National Law for an unauthorised person to advertise as a specialist or as holding endorsement of registration - AHPRA public register is freely searchable at ahpra.gov.au at no cost

Registered dental workforce — Australia, 2023 - Total registered dental practitioners: 27,658 - Dentists and dental specialists: 20,610 - Oral health therapists: 3,578 - Dental hygienists: 1,487 - Dental prosthetists: 1,311 - Dental therapists: 672 - Registered orthodontists: 572 (~34% of all dental specialists) - Specialists as proportion of employed dentists: approximately 9.5% (1 in 10)

Qualifications and training - General dentistry undergraduate degree: four years - General dentistry postgraduate degree: five years - Specialist postgraduate training: minimum three-year Doctor of Clinical Dentistry (full-time) - Specialist registration prerequisite: minimum two years of general dental practice - Oral health therapist degree: three years (combined dental hygiene and dental therapy)

AHPRA-recognised dental specialties (13 total) - Dentomaxillofacial radiology, endodontics, forensic odontology, oral and maxillofacial surgery, oral medicine, oral and maxillofacial pathology, oral surgery, orthodontics, paediatric dentistry, periodontics, prosthodontics, public health dentistry, and special needs dentistry

Titles and classifications — confirmed non-recognised - "Cosmetic dentist": not an AHPRA-recognised specialty; a marketing term only - "Cosmetic dentistry": not an AHPRA-recognised specialty - "Restorative dentistry": not a recognised specialty in Australia

Oral health therapist workforce rate - FTE rate per 100,000 population, 2014: 4.0 - FTE rate per 100,000 population, 2023: 9.0

Oral and maxillofacial surgery - Recognised by both the Dental Board of Australia and the Medical Board of Australia - Requires qualifications in both dentistry and medicine

****Scope of practice — confirmed facts**** - Oral health therapists: may perform fillings and extractions within defined scope - Dental therapists: may extract primary (baby) teeth only; not permanent adult teeth - Dental therapists: may place preformed crowns on baby teeth - Dental hygienists: may take dental X-rays - General dentists: may provide aligner therapy legally in Australia - General dentists: may place straightforward single-tooth implants

General product claims

- General dentists are described as the "first point of contact" for most Australians seeking oral health care - Complex full-mouth aesthetic rehabilitation is described as best suited to a registered prosthodontist - Complex malocclusion and jaw discrepancies are described as best managed by a registered specialist orthodontist - Complex implant cases involving significant bone deficiency are described as best managed by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon - Periodontists are described as frequently placing implants in cases involving bone grafting or gum disease management - Prosthodontists are described as designing and placing prosthetic components on implants - Checking AHPRA registration is described as the single most important verification step before committing to specialist or implant care - General dentists are described as required to refer patients when treatment exceeds their scope of practice - Use of the word "specialises" by a general dentist is described as risking implication of specialist registration they do not hold - Oral health therapists are described as an increasingly important part of Melbourne's primary care dental workforce