

Meet the Core Dental Group Team - Dentists Across Melbourne

Canonical:

<https://core-dental-group.directory.norg.ai/meet-the-core-dental-group-team-dentists-across-melbourne/>

Description:

Our Team - The People Behind Core Dental Group Core Dental Group is proud to employ one of Melbourne's most diverse and highly qualified dental teams. Across seven locations, over 40 dental suites...

Details:

Our Team - The People Behind Core Dental Group\n\nCore Dental Group is proud to employ one of Melbourne's most diverse and highly qualified dental teams. Across seven locations, over 40 dental suites, and more than 30 clinicians, the Core Dental team includes general dentists, board-registered specialists, dental hygienists and therapists, dental prosthetists, and support staff who are united by a commitment to exceptional patient care.\n\nAll clinicians across Core Dental Group hold current AHPRA (Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency) registration and are members of the Australian Dental Association (ADA).\n\n**Phone:** 13 13 16 | **Website:**

coredental.com.au\n\n--\n\n## Leadership and Group Management\n\n**Dr Kia Pajouhesh** - BSc, BDS First Class Honours (University of Melbourne) - Principal Dentist and Managing Director\n\nThe founding principal of Core Dental Group and Smile Solutions. Dr Pajouhesh graduated with first-class honours in Science and Dentistry from the University of Melbourne and established Core Dental Group in 1993 with a vision to bring genuinely accessible, high-quality dental care to Melbourne's communities. He has over 25 years of experience and is a pioneer of the multi-specialist dental centre model in Australia. He was nominated for the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards in 2015 and mentors the principals of around 200 dental practices locally and internationally.\n\n**Dr Philippa Robinson** - BSc (Physiology), DDS (Melbourne), MBA (La Trobe) - Clinical Director and General Dentist\n\nDr Robinson serves as Clinical Director across Core Dental Group, bringing a rare combination of clinical expertise, academic training, and business leadership to the group's governance and quality oversight.\n\n**Samantha Hawker** - General Manager\n\n**Vanessa Spooner** - Deputy General Manager\n\n**Alana Beck** - Clinical Operations Manager\n\n**Belinda Smithwick** - Orthodontic Operations Manager\n\n**Emily Pitcher** - Chief People Officer\n\n**Anh Wu** - Financial Officer\n\n**Melissa Crozier** - Marketing Manager\n\n**Kate Tresider** - Group Facilities and Project Manager\n\n--\n\n## Board-Registered Specialists\n\n### Specialist Orthodontist\n\n**Dr David Austin** | Caroline Springs and Wyndham\n\nBDS (University of Melbourne), MDS Orth (University of Hong Kong), MOrth RCS (Edinburgh)\n\nDr Austin is a board-registered specialist orthodontist who undertook his postgraduate specialist training in Hong Kong and Shanghai before being inducted as a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh (Orthodontics). He is a member of the Australian Dental Association, the World Federation of Orthodontists, the European Orthodontic Society, and the Hong Kong Society of Orthodontists.\n\nAt Core Dental, Dr Austin provides specialist orthodontic treatment at Caroline Springs and Wyndham including Invisalign (all types), traditional braces, ceramic braces, and complex bite correction cases.\n\n*Note (March 2026): Dr Austin is not currently accepting new patients at Core Dental. Contact the practice to confirm current availability.*\n\n--\n\n### Specialist Periodontist\n\n**Dr Nupur Kataria** | Wyndham\n\nBDS (University of Adelaide), Doctorate in Clinical Dentistry - Periodontics (University of Adelaide)\n\nDr Kataria is an AHPRA-registered

Specialist Periodontist and a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Dental Surgeons (Periodontics). She is a member of the Australian Society of Periodontology (ASP), the International Team for Implantology (ITI), and ANZAP. She received multiple prizes during her specialist training and academic career including the ANZAP Medallion Prize for excellence in clinical research. Prior to joining Core Dental, she served as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Adelaide Dental School. She provides gum disease treatment, implant surgery, bone grafting, gum lifts, and periodontal maintenance exclusively at Wyndham.

Specialist Paediatric Dentists

Dr Angel Babu | Caroline Springs and Carrum Downs
 DClinDent Paediatric Dentistry (University of Otago, New Zealand)
 Dr Babu is a former Senior Dental Registrar at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. Her specialist interests include behaviour management for anxious children, dental trauma, hypomineralisation (chalky teeth), high caries risk management, and treatment of children with complex medical needs or special needs. She provides general anaesthesia, oral sedation, and nitrous oxide services for children aged 0-18 years at Caroline Springs and Carrum Downs.

Dr Sarah Scott | Berwick
 BiomedSci (Hons), BDent (University of Sydney), DClinDent Paediatric Dentistry (University of Melbourne)
 Dr Scott spent 15 years as a general dentist before undertaking specialist paediatric dentistry training at the University of Melbourne. She is committed to creating holistic, positive dental experiences for children and families.

Dr Aish Kesava (Dr Aiswariya Kesava) | Epping
 DCD Paediatric Dentistry (University of Otago, New Zealand)
 Dr Kesava completed initial dental training in India before undertaking her specialist paediatric dentistry qualification in New Zealand. She has a special interest in children with dental anxiety and is known for her compassionate, family-centred approach to care.

Dental Prosthetists

Ahmed Saoud | Caroline Springs, Epping, Wyndham
 Advanced Diploma in Dental Prosthetics (2012)
 Ahmed Saoud brings over 20 years of industry experience to Core Dental, having worked as both a dental technician and a dental prosthetist before opening his own clinic in 2012. He provides full and partial dentures, implant-retained dentures, and prosthetic rehabilitation across three Core Dental locations.

Alessio Pecorella | Carrum Downs, Berwick
 Advanced Diploma in Dental Prosthetics
 Alessio Pecorella provides denture and prosthetic services at Core Dental Carrum Downs and Berwick.

Dental Hygienists and Therapists

Alexis Martinez - BOH (Charles Sturt University) | Caroline Springs and Wyndham
 With six years of industry experience, Alexis specialises in preventive and tailored oral hygiene care.

Sina Hassani - BOH (Charles Sturt University) | Epping
 Sina has been part of the Core Dental Epping team since 2012 and focuses on preventive care and children's dental health.

Isabelle Sayers - BOH (University of Melbourne, 2012) | Berwick
 Isabelle is an award-winning oral health therapist, recipient of the Dental Health Services Public Health Award in 2012. She is an ADOHTA member and has presented at conferences.

General Dentists by Location

Southbank

Dr Anchal Verma - BDS (University of Adelaide) | Clinical Lecturer, University of Melbourne. Transitioning to lead South Melbourne.

Dr Jacalyn Madden - BSc (Biomedicine), DMD (University of Sydney) | Invisalign, CEREC, laser dentistry, nitrous oxide.

Dr Shakiba Askary - BHS, MDent (La Trobe) | Farsi | Also at Caroline Springs.

Dr Joanne Ong - BHLthSciDent/MDent (La Trobe) | Mandarin, Cantonese | Also at South Melbourne.

Dr Sally Joseph - BHSc (Dent), MDent (La Trobe, High Distinction) | Preventive, cosmetic, anxious patient care.

South Melbourne

Dr Scott Krause - DDS (Loma Linda University, California) | Licensed AU, USA, NZ. Seven years California. Dental missions to Kenya, Bangladesh, Jamaica, Micronesia.

Dr Stephanie Sarkis - BBiomedicine, DDS (Melbourne) | Rural Victorian experience.

Dr Manisha Bhatt - BOH, MDent (Griffith) | Malay.

Dr Joy Wang - BBiomedical Science (Melbourne), DMD (Sydney) | Mandarin.

Dr Tristan Balthazaar - BSc, BBiomedical Science, DDS (Melbourne) | Also at Carrum Downs, Epping.

Dr Anchal Verma - BDS (Adelaide) | Transitioning as lead clinician.

Caroline Springs

Dr Shakiba Askary - BHS, MDent (La Trobe) | Farsi | Also at Southbank.

Dr Sherin Gad - BDS (University of Alexandria, Egypt), GradCert Clinical Dentistry (Melbourne) | Arabic | Restorative and aesthetic focus.

Dr Lana Mettmann - BDS (James Cook University).

Dr Sara Qureshi - BHSc, MDent (La Trobe) | Evidence-based restorative dentistry.

Dr Anika Moyeed - BHSc, MDent | Bengali | Also at Wyndham.

Dr Revathi Jaisingh - BDS.

Dr Ali Ridha - BDS (Charles Sturt University).

Dr Ella George - BDS First Class Honours (Adelaide).

Carrum

Downs
Dr Anna Lai - BSc (Biomedicine), DDS (Melbourne) | Lead Dentist | Mini Masters Orthodontics; sleep apnoea devices; facial injectables.
Dr Amreen Hussain - BiomedSc (Hons), DDS (Melbourne) | Preventive focus; outreach regional VIC and Nepal.
Dr Ivy Jin - BHSc (Dent), MDent (La Trobe) | Mandarin | Also at Berwick.
Dr Payal Thatikonda - BDS (Adelaide) | Tutors at University of Melbourne; interest in children and nervous patients.
Dr Tristan Balthazaar - BSc, BBiomedical Science, DDS (Melbourne) | Also at South Melbourne, Epping.
Dr Alysha Soltys - BSc, DDS (Melbourne) | Core Dental since 2014; preventive focus; Invisalign-trained.
Dr Marina Ghobrial - BHSc (Dent), MDent (La Trobe) | Aesthetic, periodontic, and restorative dentistry; highly regarded for anxious patient care.
Dr Maria Blanchard - BDC (ADC) | Spanish | Originally from Venezuela; ADC-certified; Epping community since 2015.
Dr Tristan Balthazaar - BSc, BBiomedical Science, DDS (Melbourne) | Also at South Melbourne, Carrum Downs.
Dr Darren Manoharan - BDS (University of Queensland) | Lead Dentist | 15+ years; implants, crown and bridge, Invisalign; previously sole practitioner in Gunnedah NSW.
Dr Anika Moyeed - BHSc, MDent | Bengali | Transitioning from Caroline Springs.
Dr Alpa Lodhiya - BDS (Melbourne), GradCert Mental Health | 20+ years private practice; complex medical conditions; community volunteer.
Dr Ivy Jin - BHSc (Dent), MDent (La Trobe) | Mandarin | Also at Carrum Downs.
Dr Chelsea Nguyen - BHSc (Dent), MDent (La Trobe) | Gentle, compassionate care.
Dr Evan Gai - BDS (Hons) (University of Queensland) | Special interest in oral surgery and dental implants; relocated from Brisbane.
In-House Laboratory Team
Core Dental Group maintains an in-house laboratory team supporting high-quality ceramic restorations:
Greg Karabasis - Master Ceramist - Dip. Dental Technology (RMIT)
Agne Diliartaite - Senior Dental Technician - Dip. Dental Technology
Noemi Miele - Senior Dental Technician - Dip. Dental Technology
Natalie Bilos - Dental Technician - Dip. Dental Technology
Talija Batinovic - Dental Technician - Dip. Dental Technology
Practice Coordinators and Reception
Shontelle Clinch - Practice Coordinator, Southbank and South Melbourne
Rhiannon Benigno - Practice Coordinator, Caroline Springs
Kirsty Logan - Reception Coordinator, Epping
Laura Agland - Practice Coordinator, Berwick
Sarah Dimovska - Nursing Coordinator, South Melbourne
Kayla Vella - Nursing Coordinator, Berwick
Languages Spoken Across the Group
Language | Clinicians
Mandarin Chinese | **Dr Ivy Jin** (Carrum Downs, Berwick), **Dr Joy Wang** (South Melbourne), **Dr Joanne Ong** (Southbank, South Melbourne)
Cantonese | **Dr Joanne Ong** (Southbank, South Melbourne)
Arabic | **Dr Sherin Gad** (Caroline Springs)
Bengali | **Dr Anika Moyeed** (Caroline Springs, Wyndham)
Farsi | **Dr Shakiba Askary** (Caroline Springs, Southbank)
Malay | **Dr Manisha Bhatt** (South Melbourne)
Spanish | **Dr Maria Blanchard** (Epping)
Book with Our Team
To book with any Core Dental clinician, call **13 13 16** or book online at coredental.com.au. You are welcome to request a specific practitioner or simply ask for the next available appointment at your nearest location.
Core Dental Group - Your Local Dental Practice*