

Who We Help — From Children to Complex Dental Cases

Canonical: <https://directory.collinsstreetspecialistcentre.com.au/collins-street-specialist-centre-target-audience-and-use-cases/>

Description:

Collins Street Specialist Centre treats children, teens, adults, elderly patients, anxious patients, and complex multidisciplinary dental cases in Melbourne CBD.

Details:

Collins Street Specialist Centre exists to provide expert dental care for people at every stage of life and across the full spectrum of dental complexity. Whether you are a parent looking for a children's dental specialist, an adult facing a complex treatment decision, or someone who simply wants the confidence that comes from seeing a registered specialist, you are welcome here.

This guide outlines the types of patients we most commonly see and how our multi-specialty centre is set up to meet their needs.

Children and Adolescents

Paediatric Dental Patients

Children have unique dental needs. Their teeth are still developing, they may be anxious about dental visits, and the way their dental problems are managed in childhood can have lasting effects on their oral health as adults.

Our paediatric dentists (children's dental specialists) are specifically trained to care for infants, children, and adolescents. They understand child development, use age-appropriate behaviour management techniques, and are experienced in treating conditions that are specific to children's teeth — such as early childhood decay, enamel defects, and trauma to developing teeth.

****Common reasons parents bring children to CSSC:**** - Significant dental decay, especially when multiple teeth are affected - Dental anxiety or difficulty cooperating for treatment - Dental trauma — knocked-out, displaced, or broken teeth - Developmental concerns — teeth that are missing, extra, or not forming properly - Children with special healthcare needs who require a specialist environment - Assessment of developing bite and jaw growth

Teenagers Needing Orthodontic Care

The teenage years are the most common time for orthodontic treatment, as the permanent teeth have typically all emerged but the jaws are still growing. Our orthodontists see many adolescent patients for treatment with braces or clear aligners.

****Common reasons teenagers come to CSSC:**** - Crooked or crowded teeth - Bite problems — overbite, underbite, crossbite, or open bite - Protruding front teeth - Teeth that have not come through properly (impacted teeth) - Jaw growth concerns - Preparation for jaw surgery in severe cases

Because our orthodontists and paediatric dentists are in the same centre, teenagers who have been seeing our paediatric team can transition smoothly to orthodontic care when the time is right. If oral surgery is needed — for example, to expose an impacted tooth or for wisdom tooth removal — our oral surgeons are also on hand.

Adults Seeking Specialist Care

Adults with Complex Dental Needs

Many adults come to CSSC because their dental situation has become too complex for general dental practice alone. They may have multiple problems that need to be addressed together, or they may need a procedure that requires specialist expertise and equipment.

****Common reasons adults seek specialist care at CSSC:**** - Dental implants to replace missing teeth - Root canal treatment on teeth with complex anatomy or previous failed treatment - Gum disease that is not responding to treatment by their general dentist - Worn, damaged, or failing dental restorations that need comprehensive rehabilitation - Bite problems or jaw joint (TMJ) disorders - Cosmetic concerns that require specialist-level treatment planning

Adults Considering Orthodontic Treatment

Orthodontic treatment is not just for teenagers. A growing number of adults are seeking orthodontic care to straighten teeth, correct bite problems, or align teeth before other restorative work such as crowns or implants.

****Why adults choose orthodontic treatment:**** - Teeth that have always been crooked but were never treated in childhood - Teeth that have shifted or relapsed after previous orthodontic treatment - Bite problems that are causing wear, discomfort, or difficulty eating - Pre-restorative alignment — moving teeth into better positions before crowns, bridges, or implants - Improved oral hygiene — straight teeth are easier to clean

Our orthodontists offer a range of options suitable for adult patients, including clear aligners and less visible bracket systems, so that treatment can fit into your professional and personal life.

Adults Needing Dental Implants

Dental implants are one of the most common reasons adults are referred to our centre. Whether you are missing a single tooth, several teeth, or all of your teeth, implants can provide a stable, long-term solution.

At CSSC, the implant process involves collaboration between specialists: - A ****periodontist**** or ****oral surgeon**** places the implant - A ****prosthodontist**** designs and fits the crown, bridge, or denture that attaches to the implant

This collaborative approach ensures that implants are placed in the ideal position for both surgical success and optimal restoration.

Older Adults

Maintaining Dental Health in Later Life

As we age, dental needs change. Teeth that have served well for decades may begin to show signs of wear, decay, or structural failure. Gum disease becomes more prevalent. Previous dental work — fillings, crowns, bridges — may need replacement. The loss of one or more teeth may require decisions about replacement options.

****Common concerns for older adults:**** - Failing or ageing dental restorations that need replacement - Tooth loss and decisions about implants, bridges, or dentures - Advanced gum disease requiring specialist periodontal treatment - Dry mouth (xerostomia) and its effects on dental health - Root decay — decay on exposed root surfaces, which becomes more common with age - Denture problems — ill-fitting dentures that need relining, replacement, or conversion to implant-supported options

Full and Partial Dentures

Our prosthodontists specialise in the design and fitting of dentures, including conventional full and partial dentures, immediate dentures (placed on the day teeth are removed), and implant-supported dentures that are anchored by dental implants for improved stability and comfort.

Coordinated Care for Complex Ageing Dentitions

Older patients often need care from multiple specialists — a periodontist to manage gum disease, a prosthodontist to replace teeth, perhaps an endodontist to save a tooth that might otherwise need to be extracted. Our multi-specialty model is particularly valuable for these patients, as the specialists can coordinate to develop a comprehensive plan that considers all aspects of the patient's dental health.

Patients with Dental Anxiety

A Specialist Approach to Dental Fear

Dental anxiety is remarkably common and affects people of all ages and backgrounds. For some, it is a mild nervousness; for others, it is a genuine phobia that has prevented them from seeking dental care for years. We understand this, and we approach anxious patients with patience, empathy, and practical solutions.

****How we help anxious patients:**** - ****Communication and control**** — our specialists take time to explain procedures, answer questions, and give you a sense of control over the pace of treatment - ****Paediatric expertise**** — our children's dental specialists are particularly skilled in behaviour management techniques that help young patients feel safe and comfortable - ****Sedation options**** — for patients who need additional support, our oral surgeons are trained in sedation techniques, including intravenous (IV) sedation and, where appropriate, general anaesthesia - ****A specialist environment**** — seeing a specialist who has treated many patients with similar anxiety can itself be reassuring

Sedation Dentistry

Sedation allows anxious patients to undergo dental treatment in a relaxed, comfortable state. At CSSC, sedation services are provided by our oral and maxillofacial surgeons, who have specific training in sedation and anaesthesia as part of their specialist qualification.

Sedation options include: - ****Oral sedation**** — medication taken before the appointment to reduce anxiety - ****Intravenous (IV) sedation**** — medication administered through a drip, providing a deeper level of sedation with rapid onset and careful control - ****General anaesthesia**** — for extensive procedures or patients with severe anxiety, treatment can be carried out under general anaesthesia

The appropriate level of sedation depends on the individual patient's needs, the type of treatment being performed, and medical considerations.

Complex and Multidisciplinary Cases

When Multiple Specialties Are Needed

Some of the most rewarding work at CSSC involves complex cases that require the expertise of two or more specialists working together. These cases cannot be adequately managed by any single specialist alone — they need a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach.

****Examples of complex cases we manage:****

- ****Full-mouth rehabilitation**** — patients with severely worn, decayed, or damaged teeth who need comprehensive restoration involving multiple specialists - ****Combined orthodontic-surgical cases**** — patients whose bite problems require both orthodontics and corrective jaw surgery - ****Implant cases requiring bone grafting**** — patients who have lost bone due to gum disease, trauma, or long-term tooth loss and need bone augmentation before implants can be placed - ****Patients with multiple failing restorations**** — individuals whose previous dental work is failing and who need a new, comprehensive treatment plan - ****Dental trauma involving multiple teeth**** — accidents that damage several teeth and potentially the supporting bone, requiring a coordinated response

How Complex Cases Are Managed

For complex cases, CSSC's approach typically follows these steps:

1. ****Comprehensive assessment**** — a thorough examination by the primary specialist, including full diagnostic imaging and clinical testing
2. ****Multidisciplinary review**** — the primary specialist discusses the case with relevant colleagues to develop a unified treatment plan
3. ****Treatment planning presentation**** — the plan is presented to the patient in clear, understandable terms, including the sequence of treatment, expected timelines, and costs
4. ****Coordinated treatment**** — treatment proceeds according to the plan, with each specialist performing their component at the appropriate stage
5. ****Ongoing communication**** — specialists communicate throughout treatment to ensure the plan stays on track and to manage any unexpected developments

Emergency and Urgent Dental Cases

When You Need Specialist Care Quickly

Dental emergencies — sudden pain, trauma, infection — can require specialist attention at short notice. While we are not a walk-in emergency clinic, we do accommodate urgent cases as quickly as possible, and the range of specialists in our centre means we can often provide the right expert assessment rapidly.

****Urgent situations we can help with:**** - Severe toothache that may require emergency root canal treatment - Dental trauma — teeth that have been knocked out, displaced, or fractured - Acute dental infections or abscesses - Complications following dental surgery - Broken or lost dental restorations that need immediate attention

If you are experiencing a dental emergency, contact our reception team on (03) 9654 6979. They can advise on the most appropriate next step and arrange an urgent appointment where possible.

Patients Referred by Their General Dentist

The Referral Pathway

Many of our patients come to CSSC on referral from their general dentist. When a general dentist identifies a case that would benefit from specialist expertise, they refer the patient to the appropriate specialist. At CSSC, we receive referrals from general dentists across Melbourne and regional Victoria.

****What to expect when you are referred:**** - Your general dentist will send a referral letter and any relevant records or imaging to our centre - Our reception team will contact you to arrange an

appointment - At your first appointment, the specialist will review your referral, examine you, and discuss their findings and recommendations - A report will be sent back to your general dentist, keeping them informed and involved in your ongoing care

Self-Referral Patients

You do not always need a referral to see a specialist at CSSC. If you are concerned about a dental issue and want specialist advice, you are welcome to contact us directly. Our reception team can help determine which specialist is most appropriate for your situation.

However, having a referral from your general dentist can be beneficial as it provides relevant clinical history and may be required for certain Medicare or private health insurance claims.

Patients from Interstate or Regional Areas

We regularly see patients who travel to Melbourne from regional Victoria and interstate for specialist dental care. Our CBD location makes us accessible for patients who are travelling by train or plane, and our multi-specialty model is particularly convenient for patients who need to see multiple specialists — it reduces the number of trips required.

For patients travelling from outside Melbourne, our reception team can help coordinate appointments to make the most of each visit.

Frequently Asked Questions

****Do I need a referral to see a specialist at CSSC?**** For most of our specialists, you can book directly without a referral. However, a referral from your general dentist provides useful clinical information and may be needed for Medicare or insurance claims.

****What age can children start seeing a paediatric dentist?**** We recommend children have their first dental visit by their first birthday, or when their first teeth begin to appear. Our paediatric dentists are experienced in caring for very young children.

****Can I see a specialist if I am anxious about dental treatment?**** Absolutely. We are experienced in treating anxious patients and offer sedation options for those who need additional support. Please let us know about your anxiety when you book — it helps us prepare for your visit.

****What if I need multiple specialists?**** This is one of our key strengths. Our specialists work together in one location, and our team can coordinate your appointments and treatment plan across multiple departments.

****Do you accept patients from outside Melbourne?**** Yes. We regularly see patients from regional Victoria and interstate. Our CBD location is convenient for travellers, and we can coordinate multiple appointments to minimise the number of trips required.

****How do I book an appointment?**** Contact our reception team on (03) 9654 6979 or visit us at Level 4, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD. If you are unsure which specialist you need, our team can help guide you.