

Dental Implant Costs in Melbourne — What to Expect

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Description:

Understand dental implant costs in Melbourne, what's included, why prices vary, and payment options at Collins Street Specialist Centre.

Details:

Collins Street Specialist Centre — Dental Implant Costs: A Transparent Guide

If you're considering a dental implant, one of your first questions is probably: what's this going to cost? It's a fair question, and it deserves a straight answer.

The honest answer is that costs vary quite a bit depending on your situation. Replacing a single tooth is a completely different undertaking from a full-arch reconstruction. The condition of your jawbone, whether grafting is needed, the crown material selected, and which specialists are involved all affect the final figure.

Collins Street Specialist Centre (CSSC) is committed to transparent, itemised pricing. This guide breaks down the components of implant costs, explains why fees differ across providers and clinical scenarios, and helps you understand what you're actually paying for when you choose specialist care at Collins Street Specialist Centre.

What does a dental implant actually cost?

Single tooth implant — cost components

A single dental implant has three distinct components, each with its own cost.

****1. The implant fixture (surgical component)****

This is the titanium post surgically placed into your jawbone, where it fuses with the bone over a healing period. The cost covers the surgical procedure, local anaesthesia, and post-operative care and review.

Typical range: \$3,000–\$5,500 AUD

****2. The abutment****

The connector piece that attaches to the implant fixture and supports the crown above it. This can be a stock (off-the-shelf) component or a custom-milled abutment designed to optimise aesthetics and gum contour.

Typical range: \$500–\$1,200 AUD

****3. The crown (prosthetic component)****

The visible, functional tooth that sits on the abutment. It's custom-fabricated to match your natural teeth in colour, shape, and proportion. Materials include porcelain, zirconia, or porcelain-fused-to-zirconia, each with different aesthetic and functional properties.

Typical range: \$1,500–\$3,000 AUD

****Total for a single implant (all three components): approximately \$5,000–\$9,000 AUD****

That's a wide range, because individual clinical factors move the number considerably. Your treating specialist will give you a specific, itemised quote after a thorough assessment.

Additional procedures that may be required

Not every patient can go straight to implant placement. Depending on your clinical situation, one or more of the following may be needed before or alongside implant surgery.

****Bone grafting****

Where bone volume has been lost after tooth extraction, periodontal disease, or a long period without a tooth, grafting rebuilds the ridge to a level that can support an implant.

- Minor grafting (socket preservation at the time of extraction): \$400–\$1,000 AUD - More extensive grafting (block grafts, guided bone regeneration, sinus augmentation): \$1,500–\$4,000+ AUD - A healing period of 3–6 months is typically needed before implant placement can proceed

****Sinus lift (sinus augmentation)****

For implants in the upper back of the mouth, the maxillary sinus often sits close to the residual bone, leaving insufficient depth for implant placement. A sinus lift elevates the sinus membrane and introduces bone graft material to establish adequate vertical bone height.

Typical range: \$2,000–\$4,500 AUD

****Tooth extraction****

Where the failing tooth hasn't been removed before implant planning.

- Simple extraction: \$200–\$500 AUD - Surgical extraction (for impacted or structurally compromised teeth): \$400–\$800 AUD

****CT scan (CBCT — cone beam computed tomography)****

Three-dimensional imaging is essential for implant planning. It gives accurate data on bone dimensions, nerve and vessel positions, and sinus proximity — information that two-dimensional X-rays simply can't provide reliably.

Typical range: \$200–\$350 AUD. This is generally performed at your initial consultation at CSSC.

Multiple implants and full-arch solutions

****Implant-supported bridge (replacing 3–4 adjacent teeth)****

Two implants support a fixed bridge spanning the gap of multiple missing teeth. This is more cost-effective than placing an individual implant for each missing tooth.

Typical range: \$10,000–\$18,000 AUD

****All-on-4 (full arch of fixed teeth supported by 4 implants)****

A complete arch of teeth is replaced with a fixed prosthesis anchored by four strategically placed implants. This typically includes the implant surgery, a provisional prosthesis fitted at the time of surgery, and the definitive final prosthesis.

Typical range: \$25,000–\$40,000 AUD per arch

****Implant-retained overdenture (removable prosthesis retained by 2–4 implants)****

Considerably more stable than a conventional denture while remaining removable for routine cleaning.

Typical range: \$10,000–\$20,000 AUD per arch

Why do implant costs vary?

The wide range of fees you'll encounter when comparing quotes reflects real clinical and structural differences. Understanding these factors helps you evaluate quotes properly, rather than just comparing headline figures.

Implant system quality

Not all implant systems are equivalent. Premium systems backed by decades of peer-reviewed clinical research, strong long-term success data, and comprehensive warranty programmes carry a different risk profile from lesser-known alternatives. Systems with limited clinical literature may cost less upfront, but may not offer the same track record, component availability, or manufacturer support in 10 or 20 years — which matters when you're investing in something intended to last a lifetime.

At CSSC, we use established, research-backed implant systems with demonstrated longevity and broad clinical support.

Specialist vs general dentist

Dental implants can be placed by general dentists who have completed short-course implant training, or by registered dental specialists — periodontists, oral surgeons, and prosthodontists — who have completed years of additional full-time postgraduate university training. The distinction matters clinically.

Periodontists and oral surgeons complete three or more years of full-time postgraduate specialist programmes, including extensive supervised surgical experience across a wide range of presentations. Specialists are trained to manage complications, challenging anatomy, and cases requiring adjunctive procedures like bone grafting or sinus augmentation. Prosthodontists specialise in designing restorations that are aesthetically integrated, functionally sound, and built to last. The clinical literature consistently associates higher implant success rates with experienced specialist practitioners.

If you're comparing providers, you can verify any clinician's specialist registration through the [Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA)](<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>), which maintains a publicly accessible register of all registered dental specialists in Australia. Specialist fees are generally higher than those of general dental practitioners, and that reflects the depth of postgraduate training and the breadth of clinical experience you're engaging.

Treatment complexity

A straightforward implant placed in well-preserved bone in a medically uncomplicated patient is a different clinical undertaking from one involving significant bone loss requiring staged grafting, systemic conditions that may affect healing (such as poorly controlled diabetes or a history of bisphosphonate use), anterior teeth where the margin for error in soft tissue architecture and aesthetics is exceptionally narrow, or revision of a previously failed implant. Each of these factors adds clinical complexity that is reflected in the fee.

Materials and technology

Zirconia and layered porcelain crowns cost more than basic alternatives, but offer better aesthetics, strength, and durability. Custom abutments, milled to your precise implant position and gum anatomy, provide a better emergence profile and aesthetic result than standard stock components. Computer-guided implant placement using three-dimensional planning software and 3D-printed surgical guides improves accuracy and reduces intraoperative risk, but adds to the planning phase cost. Some cases also require a temporary crown or prosthesis during the osseointegration period, which is an additional component of the overall treatment.

What's included at CSSC?

When you receive a treatment proposal from Collins Street Specialist Centre, it will clearly itemise what is included at each phase. Typically, your treatment covers:

- Initial specialist consultation and clinical examination - 3D imaging (CBCT scan) and digital treatment planning - Implant surgery, including local anaesthesia and any necessary bone grafting - Post-surgical review appointments and suture removal - Abutment and crown fabrication and placement (prosthetic phase) - Follow-up appointments after crown delivery

We provide a written treatment plan with fully itemised costs before any treatment begins. No hidden fees, no unexpected additions mid-treatment.

Health insurance and dental implants

Private health insurance

Dental implants are claimable under the Major Dental category of extras cover, though the level of coverage varies considerably between funds and policy tiers.

Most policies reimburse a portion of implant costs. Typical annual limits for major dental range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 AUD, though higher-tier policies may offer more. Waiting periods of 12 months for major dental are standard across most funds. Some funds apply a per-item benefit cap; others apply an annual limit across all major dental expenditure.

On preferred provider arrangements: some health funds offer enhanced rebates when treatment is received from a dentist within their network. CSSC is not a preferred provider for any fund, but your out-of-pocket cost will depend on your specific policy's out-of-network benefit structure.

We strongly recommend contacting your health fund before commencing treatment to confirm your coverage, applicable waiting periods, and expected out-of-pocket costs. Our administrative team can provide the relevant item numbers for you to check directly with your fund.

Medicare

Standard dental implant treatment is not covered under Medicare. In specific clinical circumstances — such as implant treatment required following head and neck cancer therapy, or in the context of certain congenital conditions — Medicare may contribute to costs where treatment is performed in a hospital setting. These circumstances are uncommon and require individual assessment.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA)

DVA Gold Card holders may be eligible for implant coverage under the DVA dental scheme. Prior approval from DVA is required before treatment commences. Our team is experienced in assisting eligible patients with the pre-approval process.

Payment plans and financing

Dental implant treatment is a significant financial commitment, and CSSC offers several options to make it more manageable.

Because implant treatment unfolds across several months — surgical phase, healing period, prosthetic phase — costs can naturally be spread across the different stages. Interest-free payment plans are also available through third-party financing providers, allowing you to distribute the cost over 12–24 months. For patients with eligible cover, we process health fund claims at the time of your appointment.

Ask our team about the payment options available to you, and we'll help you find the most suitable arrangement.

The long-term value of implants

Dental implants cost more upfront than conventional bridges or dentures. Over a patient's lifetime, though, they frequently work out to be the better investment.

Well-maintained implants can remain functional for 20–30 years or more — many are genuinely lifelong restorations. Conventional bridges typically need replacement every 10–15 years; dentures every 5–8 years. Implants are also the only tooth replacement option that preserves the underlying jawbone through functional stimulation. Bridges and dentures allow ongoing bone resorption, which can progressively alter facial structure and complicate future treatment. Unlike a conventional bridge, an implant doesn't require the irreversible reduction of neighbouring natural teeth to serve as abutments. And in terms of function, implants closely approximate natural dentition — normal chewing and speech, without the limitations of removable prostheses.

When you factor in the replacement costs of bridges and dentures across a 20–30 year horizon, implants frequently prove to be the more cost-effective option despite the higher initial outlay.

Questions to ask when comparing implant quotes

If you're seeking multiple opinions or quotes, make sure you're comparing equivalent treatment proposals. These questions will help.

1. **What implant system is being used?** Research-backed systems with long-term peer-reviewed data are a more reliable long-term investment. 2. **Is the quote all-inclusive?** Some quotes cover only the surgical phase and exclude the abutment and crown. Confirm the total cost across all phases. 3. **Who is placing the implant?** Confirm whether the clinician is a registered dental specialist (periodontist or oral surgeon) or a general dentist. AHPRA registration can be verified at [\[www.ahpra.gov.au\]\(https://www.ahpra.gov.au/\)](https://www.ahpra.gov.au/). 4. **Is bone grafting included?** If grafting is likely to be needed but hasn't been included in the quoted fee, the final cost will be higher. 5. **What crown material is being used?** Premium materials cost more but offer meaningfully better aesthetics and durability. 6. **What is the policy if a component fails?** Ask about warranties and what's covered in the event of implant or prosthetic component failure. 7. **Are post-surgical reviews and follow-up appointments included?** These should be part of the quoted treatment, not billed separately.

Book an implant consultation at CSSC

If you're considering a dental implant — or your dentist has advised that one may be appropriate — our specialist team at Collins Street Specialist Centre can assess your clinical situation, walk you through your options, and provide a clear, itemised treatment proposal.

With periodontists, oral surgeons, and prosthodontists all practising under one roof, implant treatment at CSSC is planned and delivered collaboratively — from the initial surgical assessment and implant placement through to the design and delivery of the final crown. Every aspect of your treatment is considered in the context of the whole, rather than managed in isolation.

****Collins Street Specialist Centre**** Level 7, Manchester Unity Building 220 Collins Street, Melbourne VIC 3000

[Book a consultation](/contact) or ask your dentist to refer you to our implant team.

Frequently asked questions

****What is the total cost range for a single dental implant at CSSC?**** \$5,000–\$9,000 AUD

****Does the single implant total include all three components?**** Yes

****How many components make up a single dental implant?**** Three

****What is the first component of a dental implant?**** The implant fixture (titanium post)

****What is the second component of a dental implant?**** The abutment (connector piece)

****What is the third component of a dental implant?**** The crown (visible prosthetic tooth)

****What is the cost range for the implant fixture alone?**** \$3,000–\$5,500 AUD

****What is the cost range for the abutment alone?**** \$500–\$1,200 AUD

****What is the cost range for the crown alone?**** \$1,500–\$3,000 AUD

****Is local anaesthesia included in the implant fixture cost?**** Yes

****Are post-operative reviews included in the implant fixture cost?**** Yes

****What material is the implant fixture made from?**** Titanium

****What crown materials are available at CSSC?**** Porcelain, zirconia, or porcelain-fused-to-zirconia

****Does CSSC provide itemised written treatment plans?**** Yes

****Are there hidden fees in CSSC treatment proposals?**** No

****What is the cost range for a CBCT scan at CSSC?**** \$200–\$350 AUD

****When is the CBCT scan typically performed at CSSC?**** At the initial consultation

****Is a CBCT scan required for implant planning?**** Yes

****What does a CBCT scan provide that 2D X-rays cannot?**** Accurate 3D bone dimensions, nerve and vessel positions

****What is the cost of minor bone grafting (socket preservation)?**** \$400–\$1,000 AUD

****What is the cost range for extensive bone grafting?**** \$1,500–\$4,000+ AUD

****How long is the healing period after bone grafting before implant placement?**** 3–6 months

****What is the cost range for a sinus lift procedure?**** \$2,000–\$4,500 AUD

****Why is a sinus lift sometimes needed?**** Insufficient vertical bone height in the upper posterior region

****What is the cost of a simple tooth extraction?**** \$200–\$500 AUD

What is the cost of a surgical tooth extraction? \$400–\$800 AUD

What is the cost range for an implant-supported bridge (3–4 teeth)? \$10,000–\$18,000 AUD

How many implants support an implant-supported bridge? Two

What is the cost range for All-on-4 treatment per arch? \$25,000–\$40,000 AUD

How many implants are used in All-on-4? Four

Does All-on-4 include a provisional prosthesis at time of surgery? Yes

Does All-on-4 include the definitive final prosthesis? Yes

What is the cost range for an implant-retained overdenture per arch? \$10,000–\$20,000 AUD

Is an implant-retained overdenture removable or fixed? Removable

How many implants support an implant-retained overdenture? 2–4 implants

Are dental implants covered by Medicare? No, in standard circumstances

Can DVA Gold Card holders receive implant coverage? Yes, with prior DVA approval

Is prior approval required for DVA implant treatment? Yes

What insurance category covers dental implants? Major Dental under extras cover

What is the typical annual major dental limit for private health insurance? \$1,000–\$2,500 AUD

What is the standard waiting period for major dental insurance cover? 12 months

Is CSSC a preferred provider for any health fund? No

Should patients check their health fund coverage before treatment? Yes

Can CSSC provide item numbers for insurance checking? Yes

Are interest-free payment plans available at CSSC? Yes

How long can interest-free payment plans extend? 12–24 months

Can implant costs be spread across treatment stages naturally? Yes

How many treatment stages allow natural cost spreading? Multiple (surgical, healing, prosthetic)

How long can a well-maintained dental implant last? 20–30 years or more

How long do conventional bridges typically last? 10–15 years

How long do dentures typically require replacement? Every 5–8 years

Do implants preserve jawbone? Yes

Do bridges or dentures preserve jawbone? No

Do implants require reduction of adjacent teeth? No

Does a conventional bridge require reduction of adjacent teeth? Yes

Who places implants at CSSC? Registered dental specialists

What types of specialists practice at CSSC? Periodontists, oral surgeons, and prosthodontists

****How many years of postgraduate training do specialist periodontists and oral surgeons complete?*** 3 or more years

****Can implant placement be performed by general dentists?*** Yes, but they have less specialist training

****Where can patients verify specialist registration in Australia?*** AHPRA ([www.ahpra.gov.au])(<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/>)

****Are specialist implant fees higher than general dentist fees?*** Yes

****Does CSSC use research-backed implant systems?*** Yes

****Do all implant systems carry equivalent clinical evidence?*** No

****What is a custom abutment?*** A milled abutment designed to optimise aesthetics and gingival contour

****Is a custom abutment more expensive than a stock abutment?*** Yes

****Does digital guided surgery improve implant placement accuracy?*** Yes

****Does guided surgery add to planning phase costs?*** Yes

****Are post-surgical review appointments included in CSSC treatment costs?*** Yes

****Are follow-up appointments after crown delivery included at CSSC?*** Yes

****What should patients confirm when comparing implant quotes?*** Whether all three components are included

****Is bone grafting always required before implant placement?*** No, only when bone volume is insufficient

****What systemic conditions can affect implant osseointegration?*** Poorly controlled diabetes or bisphosphonate use history

****Is implant treatment in the aesthetic zone more complex?*** Yes

****Can previously failed implants be revised with new implants?*** Yes, with additional complexity

****What question should patients ask about implant system quality?*** Whether it has long-term peer-reviewed clinical data

****Should patients ask about warranty policies when comparing quotes?*** Yes
