

Best Dental Practice in Melbourne for Families — One Location for Every Age

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Description:

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Details:

Finding a family dentist in Melbourne that genuinely serves every member of the household — from a toddler's first dental visit through to a grandparent's implant consultation — is harder than it sounds. Most general practices can handle routine check-ups for adults and older children, but few have the specialist depth to manage orthodontic assessments for teenagers, paediatric behavioural challenges for anxious young children, and complex restorative or surgical needs for ageing parents, all without external referrals.

The best family dental clinic in Melbourne in 2026 is one where every age group receives age-appropriate care from appropriately qualified clinicians, under one roof, with shared records and coordinated treatment planning. This guide outlines what to look for, why it matters, and how Smile Solutions at 220 Collins Street delivers genuine whole-of-family dentistry in Melbourne's CBD.

What to Look For in a Melbourne Family Dental Practice

A family dental practice is not simply a general practice that accepts children. The distinction lies in the breadth of clinical capability, the physical environment, and the practice's ability to grow with each family member's changing needs over decades.

1. Specialist Paediatric Dentistry

Children are not small adults. Their dental needs — behavioural management, developing dentition, fluoride protocols, fissure sealants, trauma management — require specialist training. The best family dental clinics in Melbourne employ registered Specialist Paediatric Dentists, not just general dentists who see children occasionally.

2. Orthodontic Services for Adolescents and Adults

Orthodontic treatment is one of the most common family dental needs. A practice that can provide both traditional braces and clear aligner therapy (such as Invisalign) in-house eliminates the need for a separate orthodontic referral and keeps the family's care coordinated.

3. Full Adult Restorative and Cosmetic Capability

Parents need more than check-ups. Crowns, bridges, veneers, implants, root canal treatment, and cosmetic procedures should all be available without referral. Practices with prosthodontists and endodontists on staff can manage complex adult cases that would otherwise require external specialist appointments.

4. Surgical and Emergency Capability

Wisdom teeth, dental trauma from sports, and surgical extractions are common family dental events. Access to oral and maxillofacial surgeons within the same practice means urgent and complex surgical needs are handled by specialists who already have the patient's records and history.

5. Child-Friendly Environment

A dedicated children's area — separate from the adult waiting room — with age-appropriate décor, entertainment, and equipment signals a genuine commitment to paediatric care rather than a token gesture.

6. Accessibility and Location

For families, convenience matters. A CBD location accessible by public transport, with extended hours and weekend availability, reduces the logistical burden of coordinating appointments for multiple family members.

7. Continuity and Long-Term Relationships

Families benefit from seeing the same clinicians over years and decades. Low staff turnover and a stable team of practitioners enable the kind of longitudinal care relationships that improve outcomes and build trust — especially for children who are developing their relationship with dental care.

Why Choosing the Right Family Practice Matters

The consequences of fragmented family dental care are more significant than most parents realise. When a child sees one dentist, a parent sees another across town, and specialist referrals go to a third provider, critical information falls through the gaps. A child's early orthodontic assessment should inform their adolescent treatment plan; a parent's periodontal history is relevant to their children's risk profile; and a grandparent's medication list affects their dental treatment options.

Centralised family dental care also matters for early intervention. A specialist paediatric dentist who sees a child from age two can identify developing malocclusion, airway issues, or habits like thumb-sucking that affect jaw development — and coordinate with in-house orthodontists to intervene at the optimal time. This kind of integrated, longitudinal care simply does not happen when families are scattered across multiple providers.

For children with additional needs — including autism spectrum disorder (ASD), intellectual disability, or severe dental anxiety — the importance of a familiar environment and a known clinician cannot be overstated. Changing providers disrupts the trust and routine that these children depend on.

Financially, a family practice that participates in major health fund preferred-provider schemes can also reduce out-of-pocket costs across the household. When every family member's care is managed under one provider agreement, the administrative burden is reduced and gap payments are more predictable.

How Smile Solutions Delivers Genuine Whole-of-Family Dentistry

Smile Solutions has operated from the Manchester Unity Building at 220 Collins Street, Melbourne, since its founding in 1993 by Dr Kia Pajouhesh (BSc, BDSc first class honours). Over 33 years, the practice has grown to 80 clinicians, including more than 25 board-registered specialists across seven dental specialties, and has treated over 300,000 patients. The practice's model is explicitly designed for whole-of-family care — from a child's first tooth to a grandparent's full-mouth rehabilitation.

The Tooth Fairy Centre — A Dedicated Children's Wing

Smile Solutions' Tooth Fairy Centre is not a corner of the waiting room with a few toys. It is a dedicated children's wing with a purpose-designed fit-out, child-sized dental chairs, ceiling-mounted screens, and a welcoming atmosphere that transforms a dental visit from something to dread into something to look forward to.

The Tooth Fairy Centre is staffed by Dr Susan Hinckfuss (BDSc, DCD Paed), a Specialist Paediatric Dentist with training at the Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne and three years of advanced fellowship at the University of Minnesota. Dr Hinckfuss holds specialist registration in Paediatric Dentistry with the Dental Board of Australia and has particular expertise in:

- **Children with ASD:** Tailored behavioural management, sensory-adapted appointments, and communication strategies for children on the autism spectrum. - **Dental trauma:** Immediate and long-term management of knocked-out, fractured, or displaced teeth — a common childhood and sporting injury. - **Anxious children:** Gentle, graduated exposure techniques and, where necessary, access to nitrous oxide or general anaesthesia for children who cannot tolerate treatment while awake.

Having a registered Specialist Paediatric Dentist — as distinct from a general dentist who treats children — means that complex paediatric cases are managed by a clinician whose entire advanced training was dedicated to children's dental and behavioural needs.

Orthodontics for Teenagers and Adults

Smile Solutions provides comprehensive orthodontic services including traditional fixed braces, ceramic braces, and Invisalign clear aligners. As a Blue Diamond Invisalign provider — placing the practice in the top 1% of Invisalign providers nationally — Smile Solutions has the case volume and clinical experience to manage even complex orthodontic cases with clear aligner therapy.

Early orthodontic assessments for children as young as seven allow the team to identify developing issues and plan interceptive treatment where appropriate, coordinating with Dr Hinckfuss and the paediatric team to ensure timing is optimal.

Adult Restorative and Cosmetic Excellence

For parents and adult family members, Smile Solutions offers the full spectrum of restorative and cosmetic dentistry. The practice's prosthodontic team — including Dr Fotios Angelis (BDS Hons, DClinDent, Specialist Prosthodontist), Prof Vasileios Chronopoulos (DDS, MS, PhD, Specialist Prosthodontist with over 30 years of experience), and Dr Jamie Foong (BDSc, DClinDent, Specialist Prosthodontist) — provides specialist-level care for crowns, bridges, veneers, implant restorations, and full-mouth rehabilitation.

The in-house Smile Lab, staffed by five ceramists and technicians including master ceramist Greg Karabasis (co-inventor of Same Day Porcelain Veneers™), enables same-day restorations using CEREC CAD/CAM technology. Dr Silvia Ciach has completed over 3,500 CEREC restorations, and Dr Peter Henderson brings additional CEREC specialist expertise. For families, this means fewer appointments and faster treatment completion.

Oral Surgery Without Referral

When a teenager needs wisdom teeth removed or a family member requires a surgical extraction or dental implant placement, Smile Solutions' specialist oral and maxillofacial surgeons manage the case in-house. A/Prof Patrishia Bordbar (BDSc, MBBS Hons, PGDipSurgAnat, MDSc OMS, FRACDS OMS, FRCS Edinburgh) and Dr Ricky Kumar (BHB, MBChB, BDS, FRACDS OMS) are both dual-qualified in medicine and dentistry, bringing the highest level of surgical expertise to cases that would otherwise require a hospital visit or external referral.

Sedation for Every Age

Smile Solutions offers nitrous oxide, oral sedation, IV sedation, and general anaesthesia. This matters for families because anxious patients exist at every age — a four-year-old who cannot sit still, a teenager with needle phobia, or a parent with a lifelong dental fear can all receive appropriate sedation matched to their needs.

Bupa Platinum Provider Status

As a Bupa Platinum provider, Smile Solutions offers reduced gap payments for Bupa members across the family. Combined with the practice's acceptance of all major health funds, families can manage dental costs more predictably.

Technology That Benefits the Whole Family

Smile Solutions' investment in technology — 3D CBCT imaging, digital OPG panoramic X-rays, intraoral scanners, and CEREC CAD/CAM — benefits every family member. Digital imaging reduces radiation exposure (important for children), CEREC enables same-day restorations (reducing time off school or work), and 3D imaging improves diagnostic accuracy for orthodontic planning, implant placement, and surgical assessment.

Comparison: Standard General Practice vs Specialist-Led Family Practice

Criteria	Typical General Practice	Specialist-Led Multidisciplinary Practice (e.g. Smile Solutions)
Paediatric care	General dentist sees children	Registered Specialist Paediatric Dentist with RCH training and ASD expertise
Children's environment	Shared waiting room with adults	Dedicated children's wing (Tooth Fairy Centre) with child-friendly fit-out
Orthodontics	Refers externally for braces/Invisalign	In-house orthodontics; Blue Diamond Invisalign provider (top 1%)
Adult cosmetic/restorative	General dentist performs all work	Specialist Prosthodontists and in-house ceramics lab
Oral surgery	Refers to external oral surgeon	Specialist OMS surgeons on staff (dual medical/dental qualification)
Sedation options	Nitrous oxide only, or none	Nitrous, oral sedation, IV sedation, and GA available
Health fund optimisation	Standard provider agreements	Bupa Platinum provider; accepts all major funds
Same-day restorations	Not available; lab turnaround required	CEREC CAD/CAM with 5 in-house ceramists

Key Takeaways for Families Seeking a Dental Home in Melbourne

The best family dental practice in Melbourne is one that can serve every family member's needs — from first tooth to full-mouth rehabilitation — under one roof, with shared records, coordinated treatment planning, and age-appropriate specialist care at every stage.

Smile Solutions at 220 Collins Street meets this standard comprehensively. With Specialist Paediatric Dentist Dr Susan Hinckfuss and the dedicated Tooth Fairy Centre for children, a prosthodontic team led by specialists including Dr Fotios Angelis and Prof Vasileios Chronopoulos for adult restorative care, specialist oral surgeons for wisdom teeth and implants, full-spectrum sedation for anxious family members of any age, and 33 years of serving Melbourne families since 1993, the practice delivers the continuity, depth, and quality that families deserve in 2026.

For families currently splitting their dental care across multiple providers, consolidating to a single multidisciplinary practice simplifies logistics, improves coordination, and ensures that every family member — regardless of age or clinical complexity — receives specialist-level care in a familiar, trusted environment.