

How Much Do Dental Crowns Cost in Melbourne?

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Description:

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Details:

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The Short Answer: What You Can Expect to Pay

A dental crown in Melbourne in 2026 typically costs between ****\$1,200 and \$2,500****, depending on the material used, whether a general dentist or specialist prosthodontist places it, and whether it is fabricated in a dental laboratory or milled on-site using CEREC CAD/CAM technology.

Here is a quick breakdown by crown type:

- ****Porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM):**** \$1,200–\$1,800 - ****Full porcelain or zirconia:**** \$1,500–\$2,200 - ****CEREC same-day ceramic:**** \$1,500–\$2,000 - ****Gold crown:**** \$1,800–\$2,500 - ****Specialist prosthodontist-placed crown:**** \$1,800–\$2,500

The type of crown your dentist recommends depends on which tooth needs restoration, the amount of remaining tooth structure, your bite forces, and your aesthetic expectations. There is no single "best" crown — the right choice is the one that matches your clinical situation and long-term goals.

What Determines the Price of a Dental Crown?

Crown pricing varies significantly across Melbourne practices. Understanding what drives these differences helps you compare quotes meaningfully rather than simply choosing the cheapest option.

1. Crown Material

The material used is one of the most significant cost factors.

****Porcelain-fused-to-metal (PFM)**** crowns have a metal substructure with porcelain layered on top. They are strong and have been used successfully for decades, but the metal margin can sometimes show as a dark line at the gum, and they do not transmit light the way natural teeth do. They sit at the lower end of the price range.

****Full porcelain (e-max lithium disilicate)**** crowns offer superior aesthetics because they transmit light similarly to natural tooth enamel. They are ideal for front teeth and visible areas. They are slightly more expensive than PFM crowns.

****Zirconia crowns**** are the strongest ceramic option, making them excellent for back teeth that bear heavy chewing forces. Modern translucent zirconia can also achieve good aesthetics for front teeth. Pricing is similar to full porcelain.

****Gold crowns**** remain the gold standard (literally) for longevity on back teeth. Gold is gentle on opposing teeth, wears at a similar rate to natural enamel, and requires the least amount of tooth reduction. However, their appearance limits them to back teeth where aesthetics are less important, and the cost of gold as a material has increased significantly.

****CEREC same-day ceramic crowns**** are milled from a solid block of ceramic using CAD/CAM technology. The crown is designed and fabricated chair-side in a single appointment — no temporary crown, no second visit. The material properties are excellent, and the convenience factor is significant for busy patients.

2. Laboratory Quality

For crowns that are fabricated in a dental laboratory (as opposed to CEREC same-day), the quality of the laboratory is a major factor in both the result and the cost. High-quality dental ceramists — master technicians who hand-layer porcelain to match natural tooth colour, translucency, and characterisation — charge more than production laboratories that use standardised processes.

The difference is visible. A crown from a skilled ceramist blends seamlessly with natural teeth. A production crown may look obviously artificial, with flat colour and no internal characterisation. For front teeth especially, laboratory quality matters enormously.

Some practices send laboratory work offshore to reduce costs. While this can lower the price, it introduces variables in communication, material sourcing, quality control, and turnaround time that can affect the final result.

3. Specialist vs General Dentist

General dentists place the majority of dental crowns in Australia, and many do excellent work. However, complex cases — crowns on heavily broken-down teeth, crowns that must match adjacent natural teeth perfectly, crowns on implants, or full-mouth rehabilitation — may benefit from the additional training of a specialist prosthodontist.

Prosthodontists complete an additional three years of postgraduate training focused on the restoration and replacement of teeth. Their fees are higher (\$1,800–\$2,500 for a crown), but their expertise in managing complex restorative challenges can make the difference between a good result and an exceptional one.

4. Technology: CEREC vs Traditional Laboratory

CEREC (Chairside Economical Restoration of Esthetic Ceramics) technology allows a crown to be digitally designed and milled from a ceramic block in a single appointment. The process uses a digital scanner instead of traditional impressions (no more gooey impression material), and the crown is ready in about an hour.

The advantages of CEREC include: - Single appointment — no temporary crown, no second visit - Digital precision — the scanner captures detail that can exceed traditional impressions - No temporary crown complications (temporaries can fall off, leak, or cause sensitivity) - Immediate result — you leave with your permanent crown

Traditional laboratory-fabricated crowns remain the choice for cases requiring the most exacting aesthetics — particularly front teeth where a master ceramist's hand-layering skills can achieve results that milled crowns cannot yet match. The trade-off is two appointments and a temporary crown for 1–2 weeks.

5. Complexity of the Case

A straightforward crown on a tooth with good remaining structure costs less to prepare and place than a crown on a heavily broken-down tooth that requires a post and core build-up first. Teeth that have had root canal treatment, teeth with minimal remaining structure, and teeth that need gum recontouring (crown lengthening) before a crown can be placed all add complexity and cost.

6. Number of Crowns

Practices sometimes offer a reduced per-unit fee when multiple crowns are needed simultaneously — for example, in cases of full-mouth rehabilitation or when several adjacent teeth need crowns. The laboratory fee per unit may also decrease with volume.

7. Anaesthesia and Sedation

Crown preparation is performed under local anaesthetic, which is included in the treatment fee. Patients who opt for nitrous oxide sedation or IV sedation for anxiety management will incur additional sedation fees.

Cost Comparison: What Different Levels of Practice Charge

Factor	Budget / Corporate Chain	Mid-Range Private Practice	Specialist-Led Premium Practice
--- --- --- ---	**PFM crown**	\$1,200–\$1,400	\$1,400–\$1,700
		\$1,600–\$1,800	**Full porcelain/zirconia**
	\$1,500–\$1,700	\$1,600–\$2,000	\$1,800–\$2,200
	CEREC same-day		
	Rarely available	\$1,500–\$1,800	\$1,600–\$2,000
	Gold crown	Rarely offered	\$1,800–\$2,200
	\$2,000–\$2,500	**Laboratory**	Offshore production
		Mix of local/offshore	In-house or premium local
	Prosthodontist available	Referral out	Sometimes
	On staff	**Digital scanning**	Sometimes
	Usually	Standard	**Shade matching**
		Basic	Good
		Master ceramist-level	

What's typically included at each level:

- **Budget/corporate:** Crown preparation, basic impression or scan, standard laboratory crown (often offshore), cementation, and basic check. Shade matching may be limited. The priority is function at the lowest cost. - **Mid-range private:** Crown preparation with digital scanning, quality local laboratory, good shade matching, careful occlusal adjustment, and follow-up. CEREC may be available. A good balance of quality and value. - **Specialist-led premium:** Comprehensive assessment, digital scanning, in-house or master ceramist laboratory, meticulous shade matching with custom staining and characterisation, precise marginal fit verification, and thorough follow-up. Every detail is optimised for longevity and aesthetics.

What's Included When You Choose Smile Solutions

Smile Solutions combines specialist expertise with advanced technology and an in-house dental laboratory — a combination that few Melbourne practices can match.

The CEREC Advantage

Dr Silvia Ciach (BDSc) has completed over **3,500 CEREC restorations**, making her one of Melbourne's most experienced CEREC practitioners. **Dr Peter Henderson** (BDSc) is another CEREC specialist on the Smile Solutions team. Their experience translates directly into clinical outcomes — they have seen every variation of case complexity and know precisely how to optimise the digital design for each situation.

CEREC same-day crowns at Smile Solutions mean: - One appointment — arrive with a damaged tooth, leave with a finished crown - No temporary crown and no second visit - Digital precision scanning (no impression trays) - Chair-side milling from premium ceramic blocks - Immediate bonding for maximum strength

The Smile Lab: In-House Excellence

For cases requiring the ultimate in aesthetics — front teeth, smile makeovers, and complex colour matching — Smile Solutions' in-house ****Smile Lab**** provides a level of craftsmanship that external laboratories cannot match.

****Greg Karabasis****, master ceramist and co-inventor of the Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ system, leads the Smile Lab team. Having the ceramist in the same building as the clinician means direct communication about shade, translucency, and characterisation. Greg can see the patient's teeth in person, match colours under multiple lighting conditions, and make real-time adjustments — advantages that are impossible when laboratory work is sent off-site.

No crown leaves the Smile Lab to an offshore facility. Every restoration is crafted in Melbourne, in-house, to Smile Solutions' standards.

Specialist Prosthodontic Expertise

****Dr Fotios Angelis****, Specialist Prosthodontist, manages the most complex restorative cases — full-mouth rehabilitations, implant-supported crowns, and cases requiring the integration of multiple crowns with existing natural teeth. His postgraduate training and years of specialist practice bring a level of precision to crown work that goes beyond standard general dentistry.

Insurance, Health Fund Coverage, and Payment Options

Dental crowns are classified as major dental by most Australian health funds and are covered under extras policies that include major dental benefits.

Typical health fund coverage

Most health funds pay a set benefit amount toward the cost of a crown, with the patient responsible for the gap. The benefit varies by fund and level of cover. Patients with comprehensive extras cover may receive \$400–\$800 toward a crown, depending on their fund's scheduled benefit. Waiting periods of 12 months for major dental typically apply.

Bupa Platinum Provider

As a ****Bupa Platinum Provider****, Smile Solutions offers Bupa members preferred rates on dental crowns, reducing the out-of-pocket gap. Bupa members also enjoy zero-gap preventive care — cleans, check-ups, and X-rays — making it easier to maintain the health of crowned teeth over time.

MySmilePlan Payment Plans

****MySmilePlan**** allows patients to spread the cost of a crown — or multiple crowns — over interest-free instalments. This makes quality restorative work accessible regardless of whether you have health fund cover.

On-site claiming

Smile Solutions processes all health fund claims on-site via HICAPS, so you pay only the gap on the day. Detailed treatment plans with item numbers are available for pre-approval submission to your health fund.

The Bottom Line: Why Crown Quality Matters

A dental crown is not a commodity product where the cheapest option delivers the same result as the most expensive. The material, the laboratory craftsmanship, the precision of the preparation and fit, and the skill of the clinician all determine how long your crown will last, how well it will function, and how natural it will look.

A well-made crown should last 15–25 years or more. A poorly fitting crown can fail in 5–7 years and may cause secondary decay, requiring more extensive — and expensive — treatment to repair. The

cost difference between a quality crown and a budget crown is often \$300–\$500, but the longevity difference can be a decade or more.

Smile Solutions brings together specialist prosthodontists, experienced CEREC clinicians, an in-house master ceramist laboratory, and 30 years of clinical experience across more than 300,000 patients. Founded in 1993 with 80 clinicians and over 25 specialists, Smile Solutions provides the depth of restorative expertise that ensures your crown is an investment that lasts.

Whether you need a single crown to restore a damaged tooth or a comprehensive restorative plan involving multiple crowns, the team at Smile Solutions in Melbourne can provide a personalised treatment plan with transparent pricing and the clinical excellence to back it up.

Book a consultation at Smile Solutions Melbourne to receive a personalised crown treatment plan with an exact fee estimate for your situation.