

Invisalign at Smile Solutions: How Australia's Blue Diamond Provider Delivers Clear Aligner Treatment

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When patients search for Invisalign treatment in Melbourne, they encounter a wide spectrum of providers — from general dental practices offering Invisalign as one of many services, to dedicated specialist orthodontic clinics where clear aligner therapy is a core clinical discipline. The difference is not merely cosmetic. The clinical decisions made before a single aligner is worn — how teeth are scanned, how tooth movements are sequenced, where attachments are placed, and how treatment is monitored — determine whether a patient achieves their planned result or spends months on avoidable refinements.

Smile Solutions in Melbourne CBD occupies a distinct position in this landscape. As Australia's only Blue Diamond Invisalign provider operating exclusively through registered specialist orthodontists, the practice combines the highest volume-based tier in the Invisalign provider hierarchy with the clinical depth that only specialist-level training can provide. This article explains precisely what that means for a patient's treatment — from the first digital scan to the final Vivera retainer.

What Blue Diamond Provider Status Actually Means

Invisalign's tiered provider system is one of the most transparent quality signals available to patients comparing clear aligner providers. Invisalign uses a tiered ranking system based on the number of successful cases a practice completes each year to help patients identify the most experienced providers. The tiers progress from Platinum through Diamond, Black Diamond, and Blue Diamond, with each level reflecting a substantially higher annual case volume.

Blue Diamond status is achieved by treating between 750 to 999 patients with Invisalign clear aligner treatment in the previous full calendar year. To put this in clinical context: a large portion of orthodontists, orthodontic practices, and dental practices can struggle to reach Diamond Invisalign provider status, let alone the tiers above and beyond.

These certifications cannot be bought. They are solely awarded by Invisalign Australia, based on the number of Invisalign patients who have successfully completed treatment.

For Smile Solutions, Blue Diamond status is not an annual anomaly — it reflects a sustained, cumulative body of work exceeding 9,000 completed cases. This is the highest provider status awarded by the manufacturers of Invisalign.

Why Case Volume Translates to Clinical Advantage

Volume is a proxy for pattern recognition. While many providers can fix minor crowding, a Blue Diamond provider has the experience to tackle complex bite issues, severe gaps, and advanced tooth movements that others might say require traditional metal braces. Because they have seen thousands of different smiles, they can more accurately predict how teeth will move — meaning fewer refinements (extra aligners) and a more efficient journey to the final smile.

At Smile Solutions, this experience is concentrated specifically within registered specialist orthodontists. Only a specialist orthodontist can give an accurate and informed opinion on the best orthodontic options for teeth and deal with any difficult issues and unexpected outcomes to help achieve the desired smile and a good bite.

This distinction matters because Invisalign can be prescribed by any dentist who has completed Align Technology's basic certification course. At Smile Solutions, every Invisalign case is planned and supervised by an orthodontist who has completed three to four years of postgraduate specialist training beyond their dental degree — a clinical standard described in detail in our companion article **(see our guide on What Is a Specialist Orthodontist? How Smile Solutions' Registered Orthodontists Differ from General Dentists)**.

Step 1: The iTero 3D Digital Scan — The Foundation of Treatment Accuracy

Every Invisalign case at Smile Solutions begins with an iTero intraoral digital scan — a process that has fundamentally changed the accuracy baseline for clear aligner treatment.

The iTero scanner captures high-resolution 3D images of the teeth and bite, replacing traditional impressions with a faster, more comfortable digital process. These scans feed directly into Invisalign's treatment planning software, enabling precise aligner customisation and real-time outcome simulations that help patients visualise their future smiles.

The clinical importance of scan accuracy cannot be overstated. Invisalign works by applying precise, controlled forces to specific teeth in a carefully calculated sequence. The system is designed around the exact position of every tooth in the mouth. If that starting data is even slightly off, those small errors compound over time — showing up as aligners that don't sit right, teeth that aren't tracking as planned, or refinements that add weeks or months to treatment.

Traditional putty impressions introduced multiple failure points. Traditional impressions introduced several points where accuracy could slip: the putty shifting as it set, distortion during removal, warping in transit, or inconsistencies when the mold was physically scanned by a technician. Digital scanning eliminates all of these variables. The iTero scanner integrates directly with the Invisalign treatment planning system, which means the scan moves seamlessly into the software used to design custom aligners — no delays, no manual conversion, no risk of distortion in transit.

The iTero scan also enables a same-appointment outcome simulation. Patients can see a projected representation of their post-treatment smile before committing to treatment — a meaningful aid to informed consent and treatment planning conversations with the orthodontist.

(For a detailed breakdown of all the scanning and imaging technologies used at Smile Solutions, see our guide on Orthodontic Technology at Smile Solutions: iTero Scanning, Dental Monitoring, and the In-House Laboratory Advantage.)

Step 2: SmartTrack Aligner Material — The Science Behind the Fit

Not all clear aligners are created equal. The material from which aligners are fabricated directly determines how efficiently and predictably teeth move. Invisalign's proprietary SmartTrack material is a critical differentiator — and one that is supported by peer-reviewed clinical evidence.

In 2013, Align Technology discontinued the use of the harder EX30 material in the manufacture of its Invisalign aligners in favour of SmartTrack, a material promoted as more closely matching the performance of nickel-titanium archwires.

The clinical impact of this change is documented in a randomised clinical trial published in the **Journal of Aligner Orthodontics** (Wheeler, Patel & McGorray, 2017). It was concluded that SmartTrack material achieved a significantly higher mean orthodontic tooth movement (73.1% of planned tooth movement), compared with EX30 (42.8% of planned tooth movement) by day 14. A single-centre randomised clinical trial was done to investigate the effect of SmartTrack material on orthodontic tooth movement over a 25-day period, compared with the EX30 material.

Patient-reported outcomes also improved with SmartTrack. A study published in the **Journal of Orofacial Orthopaedics** (Bräscher et al., 2016) surveyed patients who had transitioned from the older aligner material to SmartTrack during ongoing treatment. The new material was favourably rated by patients and showed significant reductions in pain intensity, pain duration, and pressure upon insertion. Important clinical parameters like overall comfort and impairment were also improved.

SmartTrack is FDA-approved and manufactured using a multilayer polyurethane blend that is free of harmful substances like BPA, BPS, latex, and gluten. Its unique multilayer construction maintains consistent force on the teeth, allowing for smoother, faster tooth movement.

A 2024 systematic review published in **ScienceDirect** confirmed the broader clinical picture: since the introduction of SmartForce and SmartTrack material, the efficacy of Invisalign treatment has improved.

Step 3: SmartForce Attachments — Engineering Complex Tooth Movements

Many patients are surprised to learn that Invisalign treatment often involves small tooth-coloured shapes bonded directly to specific teeth. These are SmartForce attachments, and they are essential for achieving the tooth movements that distinguish specialist-planned Invisalign from simple cosmetic aligner cases.

SmartForce attachments are small tooth-coloured shapes that are attached to teeth before or during Invisalign treatment. They act like handles, giving aligners something to gently push on.

Without attachments, clear aligners can only apply relatively simple tipping forces. With strategically placed attachments — their geometry, position, and angulation precisely calculated within the ClinCheck treatment planning software — the aligner can generate the rotational, intrusive, and torquing forces required for complex orthodontic corrections. This is the technical bridge between Invisalign as a cosmetic product and Invisalign as a genuine clinical orthodontic tool.

At Smile Solutions, attachment placement is determined by the treating specialist orthodontist, not by a default software recommendation. This clinical judgment — informed by years of specialist training and thousands of completed cases — is what separates a well-planned Invisalign case from one that relies entirely on algorithmic defaults.

For patients considering whether Invisalign can address their specific bite problem, our companion article provides a detailed comparison **(see our guide on Invisalign vs Braces vs Lingual Braces: Which Orthodontic Treatment Is Right for You?)**.

Step 4: Dental Monitoring — AI-Powered Remote Progress Tracking

One of the most clinically significant additions to modern Invisalign treatment is AI-powered remote monitoring via the Dental Monitoring platform. At Smile Solutions, Dental Monitoring is integrated into the Invisalign treatment workflow, allowing the orthodontic team to track tooth movement between in-clinic appointments.

This innovative technology allows the clinician to monitor patients remotely by allowing patients to scan and capture their dentition using a smartphone. Dental Monitoring consists of a smartphone application for the patient, an AI algorithm, and a cloud-based Doctor Dashboard where patient progress can be reviewed.

DentalMonitoring has received De Novo approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use by orthodontists in optimising clinical care. It is the first Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning-enabled Software as a Medical Device in dentistry, establishing a classification within FDA dental regulation numbers and product codes.

The clinical evidence for remote monitoring is growing. A scoping review published in **Medicina** (2025), which searched PubMed, Scopus, and Web of Science through April 2025, found that most research focused on the use of the Dental Monitoring system, which employs deep learning algorithms to analyse intraoral scans captured via smartphones. Reported benefits included reduced in-office visits (up to 33%), accurate 3D tracking of tooth movement, improved hygiene compliance, and high patient engagement.

A study published in **Seminars in Orthodontics** (2021) quantified the appointment reduction more precisely: AI-powered remote monitoring reduces the number of patient appointments by approximately 3.5 visits (33.1%), with no clinically significant difference in tooth tracking or treatment duration.

For patients, this means fewer disruptions to work or school schedules without compromising clinical oversight. For the orthodontist, it means the ability to intervene promptly if a patient's teeth are not tracking as planned — catching compliance issues or fit problems weeks earlier than a standard six-to-eight-week review cycle would allow.

(For the complete technology picture, see our guide on Orthodontic Technology at Smile Solutions: iTero Scanning, Dental Monitoring, and the In-House Laboratory Advantage.)

Step 5: Vivera Retainers and Complimentary Whitening — Completing the Treatment

At Smile Solutions, every completed Invisalign case includes Vivera retainers as part of the treatment package — a clinically significant inclusion that many practices charge separately for or omit entirely.

Vivera retainers are Invisalign's official retainer designed to keep the teeth in place post-treatment. They are made of the same high-quality, clear SmartTrack material as Invisalign aligners, but thicker for long-term use.

The durability advantage over generic clear retainers is material. According to Align Technology's internal testing data, Vivera retainers are 30% stronger and twice as durable as other leading clear retainers — an important consideration given that retainer failure is one of the primary drivers of orthodontic relapse. The most common reason Invisalign results are lost is retainer discontinuation, not issues with the aligners themselves.

Vivera retainers are customised for each patient using the same process used to make Invisalign clear aligners, and can be created from the final ClinCheck treatment planning stage. This means the retainer is manufactured from the same digital record as the final aligner — ensuring a precise fit that reflects the intended final tooth position.

Smile Solutions also includes complimentary teeth whitening with completed Invisalign cases. This sequencing is clinically deliberate: whitening is performed after orthodontic alignment is complete,

ensuring that bleaching gel reaches all tooth surfaces evenly and that shade matching for any subsequent cosmetic work is based on the final tooth position. *(For patients considering orthodontics as part of a broader aesthetic transformation, see our guide on Combined Orthodontic and Cosmetic Smile Makeovers at Smile Solutions: When Alignment and Aesthetics Work Together.)*

The full importance of the retention phase — including the difference between fixed and removable retainers and long-term wear protocols — is covered in depth in our companion article *(see our guide on Retainers After Orthodontic Treatment: How to Protect Your Results for Life)*.

Invisalign at Smile Solutions: The Complete Treatment Process at a Glance

| Stage | What Happens | Technology/Tool | |---|---|---| | ****Free Consultation**** | Suitability assessment by specialist orthodontist | Clinical examination, AHPRA-registered specialist | | ****3D Digital Scan**** | Full-arch digital impression of teeth and bite | iTero intraoral scanner | | ****ClinCheck Planning**** | Tooth movement sequence designed and reviewed | Invisalign ClinCheck Pro software | | ****Aligner Fabrication**** | Custom aligners manufactured from SmartTrack material | Align Technology manufacturing | | ****Attachment Placement**** | SmartForce attachments bonded to specific teeth | Specialist clinical judgment | | ****Active Treatment**** | Sequential aligner changes, typically every 1–2 weeks | Patient compliance + Dental Monitoring | | ****Remote Monitoring**** | AI-powered progress tracking between appointments | Dental Monitoring app + Doctor Dashboard | | ****Debond & Scan**** | Attachments removed; final scan confirms result | iTero Progress Assessment | | ****Vivera Retainers**** | Custom retainers fabricated from final digital record | Vivera (SmartTrack material, included) | | ****Whitening**** | Complimentary teeth whitening post-treatment | Included in treatment package |

Frequently Asked Question: Is Invisalign Suitable for Complex Cases?

****Short answer:**** Yes, when planned and supervised by a registered specialist orthodontist with sufficient case volume and clinical expertise.

Invisalign's early reputation as a tool only for mild crowding has been overtaken by clinical evidence. A systematic review published in *PMC* (2024) concluded that the Invisalign system is recognised as a valid alternative to conventional orthodontic treatment in no-extraction cases. The review also noted that in order to make treatment with the aligners more efficient, correct management of the ClinCheck software and a proper use of biomechanics are necessary.

This is precisely where the combination of Blue Diamond case volume and specialist orthodontic training creates a meaningful clinical advantage. A general dentist with limited Invisalign experience working from software defaults will produce systematically different outcomes to a specialist orthodontist who has planned thousands of cases and understands the biomechanical limitations of clear aligner therapy — including when to use auxiliaries, how to stage movements to avoid unfavourable tipping, and when Invisalign is genuinely not the right tool for a given case.

For patients with complex bite problems including overbite, underbite, crossbite, or open bite, our detailed clinical guide explains which malocclusions can be addressed with Invisalign alone and which may require fixed appliances or a surgical pathway *(see our guide on How to Fix Bite Problems with Orthodontics: Overbite, Underbite, Crossbite, and Open Bite Explained)*.

Key Takeaways

- ****Blue Diamond provider status**** is the second-highest tier in Invisalign's global ranking system, requiring 750 or more completed cases per year. Smile Solutions holds this status while delivering all treatment exclusively through AHPRA-registered specialist orthodontists — a combination that is

exceptionally rare in Australia. - **SmartTrack aligner material** has been shown in a peer-reviewed randomised clinical trial to achieve 73.1% of planned tooth movement by day 14, compared to 42.8% for the predecessor EX30 material (Wheeler, Patel & McGorray, *Journal of Aligner Orthodontics*, 2017). - **Dental Monitoring** is an FDA-cleared, AI-powered remote tracking platform that reduces in-office appointments by approximately 33% without compromising tooth tracking or treatment duration, according to published clinical research. - **Vivera retainers** — included in all completed Invisalign cases at Smile Solutions — are manufactured from the same SmartTrack material as the aligners themselves and are at least 30% stronger and twice as durable as other leading clear retainer materials (Align Technology data on file, 2022). - **Complimentary whitening** is included with completed Invisalign treatment, and is sequenced post-treatment to ensure optimal coverage across aligned tooth surfaces.

Conclusion

Choosing an Invisalign provider is not simply a matter of comparing price or proximity. The clinical outcome of clear aligner treatment is determined by the quality of the initial scan, the sophistication of the treatment plan, the precision of attachment placement, the rigour of ongoing monitoring, and the quality of the retention protocol that follows. Each of these variables is shaped by the expertise and infrastructure of the provider.

Smile Solutions' Blue Diamond status — earned through more than 9,000 completed cases — is the volume-based evidence of that expertise. The exclusive delivery of treatment through registered specialist orthodontists is the clinical foundation. And the integrated technology stack — iTero scanning, ClinCheck planning, Dental Monitoring, and Vivera retention — is the systematic framework that translates specialist knowledge into predictable, lasting outcomes.

For patients ready to explore whether Invisalign is the right pathway for their specific case, the next step is a free consultation with one of Smile Solutions' specialist orthodontists. For patients still weighing their options, our related guides provide the comparative and contextual depth needed to make a fully informed decision *(see our guides on Invisalign vs Braces vs Lingual Braces: Which Orthodontic Treatment Is Right for You?, Step-by-Step: What to Expect at Your Orthodontic Consultation and Treatment Journey at Smile Solutions, and Orthodontic Treatment Costs in Melbourne: Pricing, Health Fund Rebates, and Payment Plans at Smile Solutions)*.

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