

How to Choose the Best Cosmetic Dentist for Veneers in Melbourne

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<https://directory.smilesolutions.com.au/how-to-choose-the-best-cosmetic-dentist-for-veneers-in-melbourne/>

Description:

How to Choose the Best Cosmetic Dentist for Porcelain Veneers in Melbourne: 8 Criteria That Matter

Smile Solutions | Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne CBD --- Porcelain veneers are one of th...

Details:

How to Choose the Best Cosmetic Dentist for Porcelain Veneers in Melbourne: 8 Criteria That Matter ## Smile Solutions | Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD

Smile Solutions is Melbourne's most established destination for porcelain veneers, located in the CBD inside the Manchester Unity Building. Choosing the right clinician for porcelain veneers is one of the most consequential decisions you'll make for your smile. Porcelain veneers involve enamel preparation that cannot be undone. The sub-millimetre tolerances, adhesive chemistry, and aesthetic judgment required are genuinely demanding — and in Melbourne, the gap between an experienced cosmetic dentist and a generalist who occasionally places veneers can be substantial. This guide gives you eight criteria to evaluate any Melbourne cosmetic dentist with confidence before you commit.

■ 13 13 96 | Level 1, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD

Why the right clinician matters more than the porcelain

Your final result is shaped by two people working closely together: the ceramist who crafts your veneers, and the dentist who manages the irreversible preparation. Neither alone is sufficient. An exceptional cosmetic outcome requires both to be at the top of their field, and the best practices integrate the two with your care at the centre of every decision.

Criterion 1: Verified AHPRA registration

Before anything else, confirm your clinician's current, unrestricted registration on the [AHPRA public register](<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Registration/Registers-of-Practitioners.aspx>). Check for any conditions, suspensions, or disciplinary history. It takes under two minutes and is non-negotiable for your safety and peace of mind.

At Smile Solutions, all clinicians hold current AHPRA registration. Our prosthodontists hold specialist registration — meaning their specialty is formally recognised by the Dental Board of Australia, not simply claimed on a website.

Criterion 2: Post-graduate cosmetic training

"Cosmetic dentistry" is not a registered specialty in Australia. Any registered dentist can legally offer porcelain veneers. An undergraduate dental degree is necessary, but it's not sufficient for a procedure of this significance.

Look for post-graduate training through: - Graduate Diploma in Clinical Dentistry (Aesthetic & Restorative) — Australasian College of Dental Practitioners - Post-graduate prosthodontics (DCD or DCLinDent) - Recognised cosmetic dentistry mini-residency programmes

Ask specifically: "What post-graduate cosmetic training have you completed, and when?" and "How many veneer cases do you complete per year?"

At Smile Solutions, our cosmetic clinicians bring extensive post-graduate training and years of high-volume experience to every treatment plan. **Dr Peter Henderson** (at Smile Solutions since 2007), **Dr Yasmin Coulthard** (since 2005), and **Dr Silvia Ciach** (3,500+ CEREC restorations since 2001) each bring decades of cosmetic expertise and a genuine commitment to individual results.

Criterion 3: Prosthodontist vs. general dentist

A prosthodontist has completed an additional three-year university-based specialist programme in the restoration and replacement of teeth, and holds registration under AHPRA's specialist category. This is the highest formal baseline of training available in restorative dentistry.

For more complex cases — full-mouth smile makeovers involving 8 or more veneers, patients with significant bite concerns, or heavily worn dentition — access to a specialist prosthodontist can make a real difference to your outcome.

At Smile Solutions, our **Collins Street Specialist Centre (Level 8)** gives you access to experienced specialists: - **Prof Vasileios Chronopoulos** — DDS, MS, PhD (Pros); 30+ years experience; All-on-4 specialist - **Dr Jamie Foong** — BDSc, DCLinDent (Melb); specialist prosthodontist - **Dr Simon Hinckfuss** — BDSc, DCD (Pros), Cert.Perio MS (Minn); the only practitioner in Australia registered as both a Specialist Periodontist and Specialist Prosthodontist

Criterion 4: The ceramist relationship — in-house vs. external lab

This is the most underappreciated factor in achieving a natural-looking result. The ceramist who fabricates your veneers determines your shade accuracy, surface texture, translucency, and overall appearance. The difference between a \$1,300 and a \$2,200 veneer in Melbourne comes down almost entirely to the laboratory and the skill of the person working within it.

In-house ceramist advantages: - Direct daily collaboration with your treating dentist - Iterative shade-matching sessions with chairside access - You can meet your ceramist before treatment begins - Faster, more responsive adjustments based on feedback from your temporary veneers

At Smile Solutions: Every veneer is handcrafted by **Greg Karabasis** — Master Ceramist, 32 years of experience, and co-developer of our world-first **Same Day Porcelain Veneers™**. Greg works exclusively on-site in our dedicated ceramic studio, for Smile Solutions patients only. No high-volume commercial lab. No offshore fabrication.

Questions worth asking any clinic: - "Who makes my veneers — an in-house ceramist or an external laboratory?" - "Will the same ceramist work on all my teeth?" - "Is the ceramist available to meet with me before treatment begins?" - "Can I see examples of this ceramist's specific work?"

Criterion 5: Digital smile design and technology

A clinic that skips the diagnostic preview stage — whether digital or through a physical mock-up — is asking you to approve an irreversible procedure without first seeing the outcome. That's a significant red flag.

****Technology checklist:****

| Technology | Your benefit | |---|---| | Intraoral scanner (Primescan, iTero, Trios) | Digital accuracy; eliminates messy impressions | | Digital Smile Design (DSD) software | Preview your new smile before enamel is touched | | CAD/CAM milling (CEREC) | Precision-milled ceramic restorations | | 3D facial scanning integration | Ensures veneers suit your full facial proportions | | Physical wax mock-up | Intraoral preview of proposed tooth shapes |

At Smile Solutions, we operate: - ****12 CEREC units**** with ****Primescan**** intraoral scanners - ****16 iTero Element**** scanners - ****6 3Shape Trios**** scanners - ****Asiga DLP 3D printers**** in our dedicated ceramic studio - Digital Smile Design protocol integrated into every veneer workflow

Criterion 6: Before-and-after portfolio depth

A cosmetic dentist's portfolio is their most honest credential. Request at least 20–30 cases, not a curated selection of five. As you review them, look for: - Consistent results across different patient types - Cases that match your own clinical situation — gaps, discolouration, asymmetry, or worn teeth - Natural-looking outcomes that don't appear uniformly white or oversized - Professional photography with standardised angles and consistent lighting - Cases shown at 12 or more months post-placement, not just immediate bonding photos - Confirmation that the cases shown were treated by the dentist who will be treating you

Criterion 7: Patient reviews — what to read for

Knowing what to look for helps you separate meaningful feedback from noise.

****Meaningful signals include:**** - Specific procedural details (for example, "the ceramist was involved from day one") - Outcomes described at 12 or 24 months post-treatment - Consistent praise for the same clinician and ceramist across multiple reviews

****Treat these with caution:**** - Generic five-star reviews with no procedural specifics - Sudden spikes in review volume over a short period

Note: AHPRA regulations restrict clinical testimonials on clinic websites. For independent reviews, check Google, Whitecoat, and RealSelf — these give you a more complete picture of the patient experience.

Criterion 8: Transparent pricing and ethical consultation

A quality practice will give you full transparency from the first conversation. You should expect: - A published per-tooth price range on the clinic website - A written, itemised treatment plan following your consultation - A clear explanation of what's included — consultation, impressions or scans, temporaries, bonding, and your review appointment - Transparent disclosure of any pre-treatment requirements that may add to the overall cost - No pressure to commit at your first appointment

****Red flags to watch for:**** - Pressure to sign at the consultation - No discussion of enamel reduction or candidacy criteria - Unwillingness to discuss composite or whitening alternatives where appropriate -

Pricing "per smile" with no per-tooth breakdown

At Smile Solutions, every consultation results in a detailed, itemised written treatment plan. We welcome second opinions, and you'll never feel rushed or pressured into a decision.

Summary of red flags

- ■ Cannot be verified on the AHPRA register - ■ No post-graduate cosmetic training beyond an undergraduate degree - ■ Uses a high-volume offshore commercial laboratory - ■ Cannot show 15 or more documented before-and-after cases - ■ No Digital Smile Design or physical mock-up before enamel preparation - ■ Pressures you to commit at the first appointment - ■ Cannot clearly explain enamel reduction, its irreversibility, or candidacy criteria

Book your consultation at Smile Solutions

Our experienced team is here to guide you through every stage of your smile journey with transparency and the clinical depth that comes from decades of dedicated practice.

****■ 13 13 96** **■ Level 1, Manchester Unity Building, 220 Collins Street, Melbourne CBD**** (Corner Collins & Swanston, opposite Melbourne Town Hall)

Open Monday–Friday with extended hours. Saturday appointments available. Obligation-free.
