

What is the difference between a Dental Therapist and Dental Hygienist? - Smile Solutions

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What is the difference between a Dental Therapist and Dental Hygienist? Dental Therapist Vs Dental Hygienist At Smile Solutions, our patients may receive part of their treatment from a Dental Therapist, a Dental Hygienist or a dual-qualified practitioner called an Oral Health Therapist who is qualified in both Dental Therapy and Dental Hygiene. The Dental Therapist A Dental Therapist is a practitioner who is responsible for the general dental care of people under the age of 18. This involves being responsible for their dental check-ups, providing preventative treatment, restorative treatment, the removal of teeth, and pulpotomies. This also involves referral to other dental practitioners when required. Dental Therapists are autonomous practitioners, which means they are solely responsible for formulating and completing the treatment options for their patients. However, given that they are not dentists, there is a scope of practice for which they must work within. Each Dental Therapist has a scope of practice which is specific to their training. This can be confusing to patients as it depends on where the practitioner received their training. There are also certain treatments they are not qualified to complete. For instance, a dental therapist cannot extract a permanent (adult) tooth, but they can extract deciduous (baby) teeth. Dental therapists, as part of their training, are able to identify when their patient requires treatment which is outside of their scope, and this is when they would consider referral to either a general dentist or a dental specialist. Dental Therapists receive extensive training in the management and treatment of children and, as a result, many of the children that we treat at Smile Solutions have their treatment managed by a Dental Therapist. Dental Therapists are also able to work with the orthodontic department alongside and under instruction by the Specialist Orthodontist. This is, perhaps, the only situation in which a Dental Therapist will be able to treat an adult, unless they also have the qualification of the Dental Hygienist. The Dental Hygienist A Dental Hygienist can work on a patient of any age. They are mainly responsible for the periodontal (gum) health of their patients, and will work with their patients on the prevention of oral disease. Dental Hygienists mostly work in tandem with the General Dentist and Specialist Periodontist (gum specialist). They can be responsible for updating radiographs (X-rays), referrals to specialist practitioners for management of orthodontics, wisdom teeth, oral medicine concerns and more. They are also autonomous practitioners; however, they are not solely responsible for the general care of their patients. A General Dentist will provide the examination (check-up) and treatment of all

adult patients. At Smile Solutions we have a mix of Oral Health Therapists (dual-qualified), Dental Hygienists and Orthodontic Therapists. They work across our general, orthodontic and paediatric departments. Many of the universities are now only graduating dual-qualified Oral Health Therapists. We are very lucky to have such a large team of practitioners in order to allow the Dental Therapists, Dental Hygienists and Oral Health Therapists to consult with others in order to provide optimum for their patients. If you are interested in knowing more about the qualifications of your treating clinician, please ask our staff or visit our team. Articles from Smile Solutions View Blogs Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More Specialist Care Smile Solutions 18 Aug 2026 Endodontist vs Dentist for Root Canal: Why It Makes a Difference Read More General Smile Solutions 10 Aug 2026 Mouth Breathing: The Silent Habit That's Changing Your Face and Your Health Read More General Smile Solutions 3 Aug 2026 How Much Does a Dental Crown Cost in Melbourne? Materials Compared Read More View Blog Call Us 13 13 96 Location Level 1, 220 Collins Street Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne VIC 3000 Hours Of Service Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 8.30am – 1.30pm Sunday: By Appointment Our Services General Dentistry Cosmetic Dentistry Orthodontics Specialist Care Dental Implants Children's Dentistry Emergency Dentistry Why Choose Us Our Team Media Awards Careers Technology Location Holistic Dentistry Quick Links Contact Us Articles Packages & Offers Dental Payment Plans Understanding Your Treatment Sitemap Privacy Policy Copyright © Smile Solutions. All Rights Reserved. This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google Privacy Policy and Terms of Service apply. Close Our Services General Dentistry Dental Cleans and Hygienists Wisdom Teeth Emergency Dentistry Root Canal Tooth Fillings Chipped or Cracked Teeth Snoring & Sleep Apnoea TMD & Teeth Grinding Sport Mouthguards Dental Anxiety Cosmetic Dentistry Porcelain Veneers & Crowns Same Day Porcelain Veneers™ Composite Bonding Professional Teeth Whitening CEREC Restorations Invisalign® No Braces All-on-4® Dental Implants Gummy Smile Complimentary Cosmetic Consultation Orthodontics Invisalign No Braces Orthodontic Braces Children's Braces and Invisalign Jaw Surgery Dental Implants All-on-4® Dental Implants Conventional & Immediate Implants Dental Bridges Bone Grafting For Implants Dentures Specialist Care Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons Prosthodontists Orthodontists Periodontists Endodontists Paediatric Dentists Complex Dentistry Children's Dentistry First Visit To The Dentist Children's Dental Emergencies Children's Braces and Invisalign Child Dental Benefit Schedule Kids Teeth Cleaning Tips Why Choose Us Our Team Our Location Technology Awards Holistic Dentistry Before After Gallery Payment Plans Packages & Offers Contact Us Call Us 13 13 96 Close Smile Solutions AI Assistant ■ Hello! I'm here to help you with questions about Smile Solutions. How can I assist you today? Popular questions: What services does Smile Solutions offer? How can I contact Smile Solutions What are your business hours? ■■ × 0 /1000 Contact Us Call Us 13 13 96 Location Level 1, 220 Collins Street Manchester Unity Building, Melbourne VIC 3000 Hours Of Service Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 6.00pm Saturday: 8.30am – 1.30pm Sunday: By Appointment Close Book Now