

Why have orthodontic treatment?

Orthodontic treatment may correct problems with jaws, crooked teeth and, improve appearance and the way teeth bite together, make cleaning teeth easier, prevent tooth wear, help with speech problems and improve long term oral health.

How will you know if treatment is required?

The School Dental Service dentist will assess whether your child needs referral to an orthodontist.

Who can be treated?

SA Dental Service provides orthodontic treatment for a limited number of eligible children. Public orthodontic care may be provided at the Adelaide Dental Hospital (ADH) and, in some country areas, through private orthodontists.

If your child is not eligible for orthodontic treatment in the public system, referral to a private orthodontist may be offered.

Eligibility criteria

At least one of the eligibility criteria below must be met when orthodontic care is offered and before any irreversible treatment is started:

- > Current concession card
- > Child under the Guardianship of the Minister.

Clinical criteria

In addition to meeting the eligibility criteria above, the following clinical criteria must be met for a referral to be made:

- > Clinical assessment by a School Dental Service dentist as having an orthodontic problem which would significantly benefit from correction.
- > The ability and motivation to maintain good oral hygiene for 12 months before referral for orthodontic care. **This will require 3 monthly reviews at the School Dental Service clinic.** If oral hygiene is poor at two reviews, the offer of referral for orthodontic care may be withdrawn.

If eligibility and the clinical criteria for orthodontic treatment in the public system are met, your child's name will be placed on the Orthodontic treatment waiting list at the Adelaide Dental Hospital.

There are significant wait times for orthodontic treatment and a referral for public orthodontic care does not guarantee that orthodontic treatment will be provided.

Why healthy teeth and gums are important

Healthy teeth and gums are essential for orthodontic treatment to proceed.

Your child will need to continue regular dental care at the School Dental Clinic while waiting for and during orthodontic treatment.

It is also important to follow dietary advice given by the orthodontic unit as poor oral hygiene and **too much** sugary food and soft drink **too often** may lead to white spots and tooth decay.

Poor oral hygiene may result in orthodontic treatment being stopped earlier than planned and a less desirable outcome. Braces make cleaning a little more difficult, but practice and patience will help overcome this.

Fees

All clients (except children under the Guardianship of the Minister) are required to pay a fee towards the cost of their orthodontic treatment.

When your child's name reaches the top of the waiting list, information about the client fee will be provided at the screening assessment appointment.

Fees for treatment must be paid in full before treatment starts. Travel expenses for appointments are not reimbursed.

What happens when your child's name reaches the top of the waiting list and orthodontic treatment is offered

An appointment is made for an initial screening assessment where your orthodontic treatment need is reassessed by an orthodontist at the Adelaide Dental Hospital. Until this specialist assessment occurs, there is no guarantee that orthodontic treatment will be offered.