



## Restoring your tooth

The final stage of your root canal therapy is usually the creation and placement of a custom-made crown, to restore your tooth to its full function.

Because your molar teeth in particular deal with immense force and pressure as you chew, we find that the very large fillings that are needed to completely rebuild a molar may not be the best long-term restorative option. For this reason, a crown for your root-filled molar may be a longer-lasting alternative. After an individual assessment we will talk through your options with you.

Root canal therapy can be a great option to save a tooth that would otherwise need to be removed.



diverse **dental**

📍 SUITE 3

352 - 354 ROSSITER RD

KOO WEE RUP VIC 3981

☎ 03 5923 5000

✉ [reception@diversedental.com.au](mailto:reception@diversedental.com.au)

💻 [www.diversedental.com.au](http://www.diversedental.com.au)



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## ROOT CANAL THERAPY



diverse **dental**

**03 5923 5000**

[www.diversedental.com.au](http://www.diversedental.com.au)

## Retaining your natural teeth is our priority

We understand that for most of our patients, their number one dental objective is retaining their natural teeth for life. Historically, a tooth with very bad decay, an abscess or extreme wear would often need to be extracted. Once the natural tooth was removed, a patient's only options were wearing a partial denture, or simply living with a missing tooth.

Today, we can offer you a better alternative to tooth extraction. Root canal therapy is a procedure that aims to save your natural tooth, which we think you'll agree is a far better option than simple extraction in terms of both aesthetics and function. It allows you to retain your tooth and natural smile after the tooth has become abscessed, unhealthy or unstable. If you suffer from an irreversible pulp or nerve inflammation, or have an established bacterial infection in your tooth, root canal therapy can help.



### What is Root Canal Therapy?

Root Canal Therapy involves the removal of the nerve tissue from the canals inside your tooth. This nerve supplies the feeling and sensation to your tooth. Once this becomes infected due to severe decay, a fracture or injury, you may experience severe pain, sensitivity or darkening of your tooth. That's where root canal therapy can help.



Your root canal therapy begins with your dentist taking a set of detailed x-rays. Because some teeth have more than one canal, these x-rays allow us a detailed look at your tooth, accurately measuring the number and dimensions of each canal and the possible presence of underlying infections in the bone.

The inflamed or dead tissue inside your tooth's root canals is then removed over a number of appointments, after which we thoroughly disinfect the canals to eliminate all bacteria. Your root canal space is then carefully filled and sealed with a material that acts to guard against further infection.

Please note that once the nerve has been removed, your tooth does become slightly brittle and prone to fractures or chipping. For this reason, we recommend placement of a suitable restoration to cover and preserve your tooth.

### The facts about Root Canal Therapy

Root canal therapy or RCT is a complex and technically demanding procedure, but one that our team has extensive experience with. We will perform your RCT with exceptional care and attention and are happy to report a very high success rate for all our RCT procedures.

While it is a commonly held belief that root canal Therapy is a painful procedure, this is not the case. In fact, normally your RCT procedure is painless, as your dentist will administer an appropriate anaesthetic for you before we begin.

Most teeth restored with RCT will last as long as your natural teeth, as long as it is properly nourished by the surrounding tissues. Your restored tooth will rarely turn black. If however this does occur and you are concerned about your appearance, we can whiten your tooth or place a veneer over the crown to restore your tooth's colour.