

FQ profiles... Invisalign

A perfect smile is the ultimate finish to every fashionable look.

Have you always wanted perfect teeth – but were unwilling to wear unflattering metal braces? Now there's a way to get the straight smile you desire, and you won't have to sacrifice your sense of style in the process.

Invisalign is a barely visible method of orthodontic therapy to straighten teeth. It uses a series of transparent, custom-fabricated aligners designed to gradually move teeth to their desired positions. Unlike metal braces, these clear aligners can be removed while you eat, brush your teeth and floss. They are more comfortable than metal braces and don't have any sharp parts to cut the lips, tongue and cheeks. What's more, you can remove them altogether for a special event so nobody will know you're straightening your teeth.

More than 500,000 patients worldwide have been treated since Invisalign was introduced in 1999, and the cost is comparable to conventional braces, making it affordable to everyone. The procedure has landed in New Zealand and cosmetic dentist Dr Roger Tiang, of Auckland's Downtown Dental, was one of the very first qualified practitioners in the country.

Curious about what Invisalign involves? First, your dentist will conduct an initial examination to decide whether it's right for you. Then your orthodontist or dentist will take dental impressions, x-rays and photographs of your teeth. A computer creates a three-dimensional model of your current smile and the desired end result – we all love a good 'before and after' photo! The custom software simulates the step-by-step movement of your teeth into position and produces thin, medical-grade plastic aligners, which are changed every two weeks as the teeth move.

The time it takes to achieve the desired result depends on the severity of each case. Average treatment time is less than a year,

while simple treatments, such as minor crowding or minor spacing, may take as little as six months. A patient's success is largely dependant on their consistency in wearing the aligners for at least 20 hours a day.

TOP TIP: It's crucial to find a dentist or orthodontist who is certified and experienced in performing the treatment. Dr Tiang has a wide range of experience in enhancing smiles using Invisalign, braces, plates, cosmetic dentistry including porcelain veneers and bonding. He offers complimentary Invisalign consultations to discuss your smile.

Contact: Dr Roger Tiang, Downtown Dental, Level 6, Harbour View Building, 152 Quay St, Auckland. Ph (09) 302 7066.

Email info@straightteeth.co.nz or visit www.straightteeth.co.nz



invisalign[®]
straight teeth, no braces™