

# Get it STRAIGHT

**N**ow there's an elegant way to get the smile you've always wanted. Forget unflattering metal braces – 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.

Your dentist will conduct an initial examination to decide whether Invisalign is right for you. Cosmetic dentist Dr Roger Tiang of Auckland's Downtown Dental says the treatment starts with your orthodontist or dentist taking dental impressions, x-rays and photographs of your teeth, then a computer creates a three-dimensional model of your current smile and the desired end result. 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.

Dr Tiang says it's important to find a dentist or orthodontist who is certified and experienced in performing the treatment. "Skilful orthodontists and dentists can use Invisalign to solve a wide



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variety of orthodontic issues," he says. More than 500,000 patients worldwide have been treated since the system was introduced in 1999, and the cost is comparable to conventional braces.

Dr Tiang has experience in enhancing smiles using braces, plates, clear aligners and cosmetic dentistry such as porcelain veneers and bonding. "Going to someone who has experience and training in several fields can be of great benefit to patients," he says. "Knowing what makes a beautiful smile and being able to use the many options modern dentistry can offer enables me to give my patients exactly what they want."

For a free, no-obligation assessment

of your teeth, call Dr Tiang at Downtown Dental. As a special promotional offer, all patients who start Invisalign treatment between now and September 2007 receive a complimentary Zoom in-office tooth whitening treatment valued at \$1000.

## contact

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