



DENTAL TOURISM DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's your money, your teeth and your health



Complex dental treatment can sometimes come at a high cost. Depending on the circumstances, some Aussies consider getting their treatment overseas to get a 'free' holiday out of their dental treatment instead of having it done at home. But what are the risks? Is there a reason dental treatment is significantly cheaper in the developing world? **Is it worth the risk?**

While you may know someone who has successfully undergone dental work overseas, or you are enticed by the potential savings, you should know that there are some very serious risks.

THE RISKS

Something might go wrong - very wrong

Things can go wrong in the dental chair. If you're overseas receiving treatment and are the subject of an emergency situation, you may not have the luxury of expert emergency care, support from family and friends, or even the ability to communicate to healthcare professionals in your spoken language. *Australian dentists are appropriately trained to deal with dental emergencies.*

The materials used might be cheap, damaged or faulty

Aussies seeking dental treatment overseas commonly undergo procedures that require dental materials such as crowns, bridges or implants. If you return from your overseas treatment and after a short time you discover a fault in the work, who will repair it? Who will you complain to and how will you pay for the subsequent treatment to fix the work? *Australian therapeutic goods and dental materials are regulated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) to ensure they are of a quality suitable for the Australian public.*

Is the dentist qualified to perform the treatment?

Do you know that the dentist you are seeing overseas is appropriately trained and qualified to perform the treatment they have promised? Some countries accept a standard of education and training that would be considered sub-standard here and often the result of your treatment reflects this training. *In Australia, dentists and dental specialists undergo extensive*

training at university, are registered to practise under the conditions of the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and undergo mandatory continuing professional development.

Infection and spread of disease

Infection and spread of disease in hospitals and dental practices in some other countries are a very real concern. *In Australia, dental practices adhere to strict infection control protocols imposed by the Australian Dental Association, the National Health & Medical Research Council, and the Dental Board of Australia.*

**AUSTRALIAN DENTISTS ARE
APPROPRIATELY TRAINED TO DEAL
WITH DENTAL EMERGENCIES.**

Your oral health is very important. Whether you need a simple filling or complex dental work you should always be aware and informed of the benefits and risks associated with treatment.

While the financial cost of treatment may appear high your health is very important. Before you seriously consider dental treatment overseas, consult a local dentist to weigh up your options. If you've already made up your mind to receive your dental treatment overseas, do your research. Make sure you know who will be treating you, what their facilities are like, and have someone at home with all your treatment details in case of emergency. Just remember, it's your money, your teeth and your health.