

# Orthodontics

## Create a winning smile

**D**r Deborah Sykes is inviting Ballarat residents to follow her informative articles over the next few weeks to learn all about orthodontics and how you can afford to smile with confidence.

Today she begins by telling you what orthodontics is and what orthodontic treatment is.

The three main reasons for orthodontic treatment are:

1. Straight teeth are easier to keep clean.
2. Your bite will be better so you can eat easily and;
3. Straight teeth improve confidence and you will smile more.

There are many different types of orthodontic treatment.

1. Removable plates to correct minor tooth crowding and some jaw problems;
2. Growth plates to correct the alignment of the jaws. ie: 'bucky teeth';
3. Fixed braces to straighten crooked, crowded teeth or close spaces between teeth;
4. Rarely surgery is required to correct jaw problems in adult patients;
5. Treatment time for braces may vary between six months and 24 months, depending on the problem being corrected.

Dr. Sykes likes to see children for



Dr Deborah Sykes can make smiling a pleasure.

### AT A GLANCE

#### DR DEBORAH SYKES

**WHAT:** Orthodontic care by Dr Deborah Sykes

**WHERE:** 1424 Sturt St, Ballarat

**PHONE:** 5331 9489. No referral necessary for health fund purposes.

their first visit about seven to nine years of age. Lots of adults have treatment too — you're never too old.

When should treatment start?

1. Many treatments such as plates start when children are growing at seven to nine years' old.
2. Fixed braces start when most of the second teeth have erupted (11 to 14 years' old)
3. Some treatments, such as surgery of jaws, start when the face

has stopped growing. Dr Sykes can explain the best timing of treatment for you.

At your first visit Dr Sykes will look at your teeth to see whether they are crooked, gappy, missing etc, whether your jaws match up properly and if your bite is correct.

There are many different types of treatment depending on the problems with your teeth.

Dr Sykes will recommend the best treatment for your specific problem.

What happens if I need to start orthodontic treatment?

An examination, x rays and moulds of your teeth are made so that Dr Sykes can recommend the best treatment for you.

Many people think that orthodontic treatment is too expensive but Dr Sykes can arrange a payment plan so that you can afford to put a sparkle in your smile.