



Kia Pajouhesh, managing director of the business judged Victoria's best, Smile Solutions.

DENTAL DISTINCTION LANDS TELSTRA AWARD

A CITY dental practice with a turnover of \$18 million a year has been named Victoria's top business.

Smile Solutions, which has a patient list of 65,000, took out the Telstra Victorian Business of the Year award last night.

It was also the winner in the medium-sized business category at the prestigious awards.

The business grew from humble beginnings: founder Kia Pajouhesh bought a small dental practice with

CLAIRE HEANEY BUSINESS AWARDS

eight patients about 20 years ago, two years after graduating from Melbourne University.

Based in the Manchester Unity building on Collins St, Smile Solutions now employs almost 100 specialists, nurses and support staff.

"I am totally committed to building 'the dental practice of dreams', a practice beyond the imagination of our patients, clinicians,

management, administrative and nursing staff — and myself," he said.

Dr Pajouhesh said the "one team, one place" business model provided efficient treatment and referrals for patients.

"Seamless referrals from one Smile Solutions practitioner to another, each an expert in their own field, ensures optimum service for all dental needs," he said.

The start-up award went to another city-based business, Crisp Creative Salads, which

was launched last year and pitches healthy fast food at young professional workers.

It now has two city locations and 31 staff.

Mornington Peninsula-based tourism attraction, The Enchanted Adventure Garden, at Arthurs Seat, took out the regional award.

Winners from each state and territory will vie for the national award, announced in Melbourne on August 7.

A FULL LIST OF WINNERS WILL APPEAR IN BUSINESSDAILY TOMORROW