



Ageing gracefully with Tarkett 'personalised' Flexible Standards flooring

Project: mecwacare, VIC

Product: Tarkett Flexible Standards

A leading aged care provider is amongst the first to widely adopt Tarkett's latest range of highly customisable Flexible Standards carpet flooring.

Headquartered in Melbourne, mecwacare has a growing portfolio of specialist aged care facilities throughout Victoria and embodies its ethos to enhance residents' quality of life by delivering responsive environments.

When tasked with refurbishing two buildings and constructing another, mecwacare was seeking hard-wearing carpet flooring that provided an aesthetic signature relevant to each individual location.

Tandus Centiva is a brand of Tarkett Australia and, as Tarkett specifications manager Louisa Keleher explained, our Flexible Standards range opens up a world of new possibilities for customers, given its myriad of patterns to choose from and an unheralded amount of matching colour combinations.

"It's called Flexible Standards because you have a huge range of different patterns to choose from and you also have the additional flexibility of changing the colour scheme for each pattern," said Ms Keleher. "This really appealed to mecwacare and their interior designer, who together were seeking a signature result that could be recognised as a mecwacare 'house' style, and also be differentiated to suit individual buildings."

mecwacare first used Tarkett flooring 15 years ago and found its durability to be outstanding – only having to replace that installation two years ago because the colour needed an update.

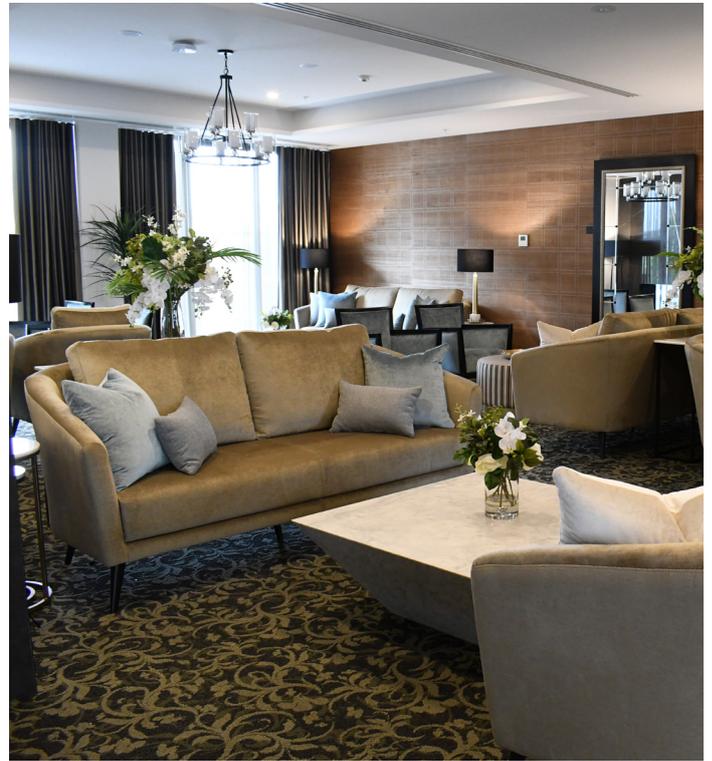
"mecwacare has used our impervious range of Powerbond® flooring in the past and had great success with it," Ms Keleher said. "Flexible Standards adds complete design customisation, which provides opportunities to create quite unique spaces."

mecwacare Chief Executive Michele Lewis said the extensive range of combinations available greatly assisted specification for three recent projects. "The Flexible Standards product range absolutely helped with differentiating the flooring schemes for each site, giving each their own unique identity which is sympathetic to their environmental context and building type," said Ms Lewis.

"With the Flexible Standards range we were basically able to design our own carpet," she continued. "We were looking for a 'classic' style of pattern that wouldn't become unfashionable, that would remain relevant and on-point for a long time."

"We considered a pattern that we ultimately found a little too 'swirly' and settled on a more subtle one. It's quite fabulous and 'hotel-like'. It has a real wow-factor. It's so impressive that it has become our 'trademark' carpet and we are now putting it into all our homes."

"Once we had settled on the pattern, we just changed the colours depending on the site we were going to be using it in. It looks lovely no matter what colour we have selected,



but varying the colours and tones makes a huge difference in terms of customising the interiors to their locations and building type. For example, in the country we go for browns with bits of green, whereas by the ocean we use blues and greys."

The design chosen for all three *mecwacare* projects is Flexible Standards P0018.

Two existing projects feature the new Flexible Standards carpet, with approximately 1100 square metres of browner shades installed at Jubilee House in Caulfield North and over 200m² at O'Mara House in Traralgon.

So well received were these refurbishments that another 900m² of a creamier-coloured Flexible Standards went into a new *mecwacare* building development, the Robin Syme Residences, in Malvern.

mecwacare's Flexible Standards – a solution-dyed nylon fibre with stain-resistance – is on Ergo Back, a liquid-impervious backing perfect for the aged care sector.

GR Interiors principal designer, Glenda Roberts, said such properties were one of several considerations when helping select new carpet for her client's facilities. "The flooring has to be suitable for its environment," said Ms Roberts. "Having the right backing is very important for keeping it clean and for infection control.

"The carpet's performance, which includes natural slip-resistance qualities, long-term durability and also warranty considerations, are practical matters. Then of course we also consider aesthetics.

"*mecwacare*'s facilities have large areas; enormous rooms with big, long corridors, so they can't be bland. They need to have that warm, personal feeling that is appropriate for somebody's home.

"Colour is the cornerstone of good design, so it has to be just right and work in harmony with the home. It was great to have a lot of different colour options available to us in the Flexible Standards range so that I could get whatever I wanted and meet the client's vision for each of the aged care facilities. *mecwacare* is very happy with the look-and-feel, and I am also happy with the result in all three of the buildings.

"Flexible Standards has such a wide range of patterns and colour schemes that it is easy to create a unique effect. Louisa from Tarkett worked with us to deliver a design specific to our needs and it was perfect for what we wanted and really suited the jobs right down to the ground."