



Yukana renovation blends comfort, style and practicality for residents

With an ambitious multi-stage refurbishment, the Yukana Retirement Village and Aged Care in Toowoomba has enhanced the living experience for residents, visiting families and team members. Redefined in the style 'modern Australian country elegance', Melinda Taylor Interiors + Design used Tarkett flooring to realise this vision.

"The client's brief for the interior design was clear and focused on creating a comfortable, elegant and welcoming home-like environment for residents," says Creative Director Melinda Taylor.

"Our design approach has blended contemporary design elements with the charm and warmth of country aesthetics. We wanted to ensure the spaces were both stylish, a little unexpected and, most importantly, that they felt homely and not cold or clinical. Selecting the right flooring products was critical, given the varied needs of the residents, including those living with dementia."

A huge range of designs helps fulfil a uniquely Australian theme

With the village laid out in a hub-and-spoke design, the refurbishment could progressively upgrade the facilities while keeping disruption for residents to a minimum. This included refinishing all public spaces, along with Hebron Court, a secure wing dedicated to dementia care.

Rod Mortlock, Tarkett's Senior Specification and Account Manager, Queensland, was involved early in the project, with a particular focus on the benefits of using an Impervious Carpet for these areas.

"I visited the facility they were refurbishing," he says, "to discuss requirements and provide detailed information about carpeting for aged care. It was a productive meeting, and we went through all the relevant points – they were particularly interested in our colour range, to fit in with their design aesthetic."

Ultimately, choosing from Tarkett's Powerbond® Hybrid Carpet meant Melinda and her team had access to 74 different designs and anywhere from 4 to 24 colours per design.

"Incorporating the colours of nature and introducing textures to create movement in a serene and inviting atmosphere were key elements in the brief," Melinda says. "In the end, the Garden Walk collection gave us exactly what we needed."

Bringing products together to complement the theme

Stage one of the refurbishments focused on the exterior entrance, interior foyer, meeting room, guest powder room and dining room. The entryway was laid with Tandus Abrasive Action II in Charcoal, with welded seams providing a cost-effective solution for maintaining a clean, good-looking entrance.



This initial stage also brought together the combination of Powerbond Broadloom Carpet and Tarkett's Ruby 70 Heterogenous Vinyl that would continue throughout the interior. Here, the designers chose the colour Oak Dark Brown to contrast their selection of the patterned Meadowsweet Carpet and the complementary, Spring Step, both in the Stone Path colourway.

"The flooring needed to bring the 'modern Australian country elegance' theme to life," notes Melinda, "complementing the overall design while providing a cohesive look throughout the senior living village. Bringing the Carpet and Vinyl together was easy, with such a large range of colours and patterns to select from."

Among key performance criteria such as durability, safety, comfort and ease of maintenance, cost was also a factor in choosing Powerbond. "Most people see an Impervious Carpet as an expensive option," notes Rod, "but they're actually not overly expensive at all, considering the many benefits and the lower cost of installation."

Incorporating the needs of dementia care

The Hebron Court dementia care unit required special attention during the design phase for both practical and aesthetic elements, to ensure a safe and supportive environment for residents.

"We needed to ensure that pattern selections worked within the existing structural layout," says Melinda. "Patterns in the flooring selections also needed to be continuous due to the hub-and-spoke design of the building."

"The flooring in the dementia unit was chosen for its safety features, including non-slip surfaces and the impervious nature of the backings, ensuring substrates are protected. It also needed to be continuous in colour and texture to avoid creating visual disturbances or confusion for residents. And at the same time, maintain a connectedness with the style guide and colour palette."

Designing, specifying and installing for the best result

As a trained architectural draftsman, Rod is very passionate about getting the specifications right and then ensuring that the flooring is installed correctly so it will continue to perform for decades.

"Powerbond needs the skills of a Vinyl installer to lay, as you have welding components for the seams. We've got a training course to teach them how to correctly install the Impervious Carpet – it requires those Vinyl cutting and welding skills at a pretty high level."

For Melinda, choosing complementary Tarkett Carpet and Vinyl products for Yukana Private allowed her team to create distinct yet cohesive spaces that facilitate both social interaction and private reflection.

"All the floor finishes support and encourage mobility for residents, while offering longevity, durability and ease of maintenance for the staff, all within a classic, elegant design."