



Paediatric practice adds sophistication

By David Petrikas

One of Sydney's newest paediatric dental surgeries has elevated the style and standard of care offered to young patients and their families.

Dr Venkatesh Bhardwaj, a Senior Registrar in the Department of Paediatric Dentistry at Westmead Centre for Oral Health, established Macarthur Paediatric Dentistry in Camden to offer specialist paediatric care to patients in the rapidly growing Macarthur region southwest of Sydney.

At the outset, Dr Bhardwaj (known as "Dr Ven" to most) wanted surgeries that were large enough to allow easy wheelchair access and ample space for the functional requirements of the practice including sedation equipment.

He also wanted to provide a relaxing environment, not only for his young patients, but equally importantly for their parents to ensure their stay was as pleasant as possible. This approach appears to be working, with referral and return patient numbers already building since opening.

Dr Bhardwaj said he was fortunate in getting in contact with experienced surgery designer and builder, Andrew Mulroe, the Managing Director of Dental Fitout Projects, Belrose in Sydney.

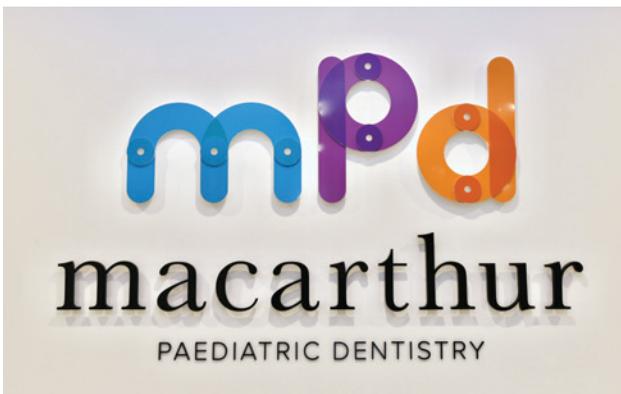
Dental Fitout Projects was instrumental in the project coming together, being able to help locate, design and fit-out a practice to suit Dr Bhardwaj's specific needs. The company has a reputation of listening very carefully to their clients' "wish list" and producing amazing results.

Macarthur Paediatric Dentistry is certainly no exception.

Dental Fitout Projects, MD, Andrew Mulroe, said the key ingredient to success was working closely with their clients to achieve the perfect partnership of dentist, designer and builder.

The company has a system that covers site assessment, design, procurement and construction, all in a smooth, easy-to-follow format that includes a full set of 2D and 3D construction drawings to help bring the project to life during the planning phase.

Andrew Mulroe and senior designer, Meow Lim, have together designed and built over 300 dental practices. Ms Lim's design skill set was critical to the outcome of this practice.



Dental Fitout Projects' Steven Hyde is the Senior Project Manager overseeing the projects, ensuring the highest level of quality while meeting construction deadlines and budgets.

"Dental Fitout Projects were fantastic and really helpful. They covered all the nuts and bolts and came up with exactly what I wanted and how I wanted it," Dr Bhardwaj said.

Macarthur Paediatric Dentistry has a more upmarket "adult" feel than many paediatric clinics, but manages to appeal to both adults and children through subtle touches such as high quality framed caricatures of children imagining themselves as superheroes.

The practice is located in a modern building with heritage-inspired styling, matching the historic town of Camden and is complemented by the crisp and modern interior décor.





By using plain wall colours, warm timber grained flooring, high-end finishes including a marble-patterned reception desk and modern furniture, together with decorator colour accents and graphics, the look is distinctly mature and sophisticated.

The main waiting area has modern seating and magazine racks for parents and adjoins a dedicated children's space with upholstered lounge, play rug, toys and television monitor. As a result of this more considered approach, the practice makes parents and children feel equally at home.

As a senior registrar at Westmead where he completed his Doctorate in Clinical Dentistry, Dr Bhardwaj is skilled at handling challenging cases, including dealing with children with behavioural problems, anxiety and patients with various disabilities.

This led to the clear choice of a dental unit with a separate delivery system and a bare chair and ceiling mounted LED lights without any attached poles or cuspidor (spittoon).

"Children often like to jump on chairs and grab things and some children with special needs can feel "boxed in" by a spittoon and bulky delivery systems," Dr Bhardwaj explained.

"The A-dec chairs allow us to separate the delivery system and have everything tucked away until needed. There is no comparison to the separate delivery system and it's worth paying a premium for a better chair as others which use a cart system are very clunky in comparison," Dr Bhardwaj said.

Dr Bhardwaj's work often requires the use of Nitrous Oxide sedation and requires an accessible and comfortable patient chair and the ability to provide four-handed dentistry.

He is fortunate in having skilled staff including a senior dental assistant with experience who was able to provide input into the layout of the practice to make it more efficient.

In his case, the DA is well catered for with an A-dec 545 round work surface that moves easily into position on a double pivoting arm when required and includes suction and its own chair and light controls.

When it came to selecting the main surgery equipment, Dr Bhardwaj spoke to James Wallace of New South Wales A-dec dealer, Presidential, who came up with a comprehensive chair and equipment package including sterilisation room equipment to get the practice operating.



Summary

The Practice

The Practice	Macquarie Paediatric Dentistry
The Principals	Dr Venkatesh Bhardwaj
Practice Type	Specialist Paediatric
Location	Camden, New South Wales
Size	115 square metres
No of chairs	2 + 1

The Team

Design	Dental Fitout Projects
Senior Designer	Andrew Mulroe and Meow Lim
Construction	Dental Fitout Projects
Project Manager	Steven Hyde
Installer	Presidential

Equipment

Dental Units	A-dec 500 with A-dec 542 side delivery A-dec 300 with A-dec 542 side delivery A-dec 545 articulating round assistant's work surface
Sterilisation	W&H Lisa VA Assistina TWIN automated handpiece maintenance unit
X-Ray	X-Mind DC with KaVo Scan eXam PSP scanner
Compressor	Cattani AC200
Suction	Cattani MicroSmart
Software	Pratika

Presidential was able to arrange the installation of the dental units, X-ray generators, compressor, suction and all the sterilisation equipment - which includes the latest generation W&H Lisa VA steriliser with wireless instrument tracking capability and W&H Assistina TWIN handpiece maintenance unit.

"I've used A-dec equipment extensively in all training hospitals including some older equipment and some newer A-dec equipment and Presidential was able to provide me with exactly what I needed," Dr Bhardwaj said.

The main surgery has an A-dec 500 dental unit while a second surgery features a second generation A-dec 300 patient chair with load bearing armrests and the same A-dec 542 side delivery system and award-winning A-dec multi LED operatory light.

"I really liked the look of the A-dec 500 and it is really soft and comfortable for the patient. Also, the bright orange upholstery matches my logo."

Dr Bhardwaj particularly likes the speed of movement of the A-dec 300 patient chair, which enables him to quickly sedate patients and begin working on them immediately.

"The newer A-dec chairs are very easy on the eye and the upholstery is surreal - in terms of comfort, colour and ease of cleaning and it also wears quite well, while other chairs tend to look frayed and old after only a short time.

"Even the A-dec sewn upholstery still looks nice even when it wears and the ability to separate the delivery system is fantastic as it is tucked away behind the eye line of patients which is very important when treating anxious children," Dr Bhardwaj said.

Macarthur Paediatric Dentistry is located at Suite 1, 21 Elizabeth Street Camden NSW - Tel: (02) 9188-0202.

