



How Sustainability is Shaping the Expanded Latrobe Regional Hospital

Latrobe Regional Hospital's \$217 million expansion combines calm, child-friendly interiors with high-performance Tarkett flooring. The project meets strict hygiene requirements using Homogeneous Sheet Vinyl, while supporting sustainability through offcut recycling that returns material to production.

Designed by Billard Leece Partnership, this project provides a major lift for rural health in Central Gippsland. As well as planning for future care, the project was an opportunity to embed a robust sustainability and waste-management program. Connection to Country drove decisions from planning to interiors, positioning the healing spaces to capture views and natural light.

'There was a strong emphasis on creating a sense of place,' says Ariel Lopez, principal and project director at Billard Leece Partnership. 'The design reflects local waterways and landforms and weaves in First Nations stories through colour and form. It is contextual and regional, and draws on the surrounding environment.'

Biophilic design gives each ward and public area a direct visual line to courtyards, gardens and long views across the rural landscape, bringing a restful atmosphere inside. A locally commissioned First Nations artwork grounds the foyer in its location, while graphics, finishes, textures and lighting represent Gippsland's palettes and forms to create an interior that feels coherent, natural and genuinely restorative.

'A large proportion of this project is maternity and paediatric areas,' explains Senior Associate and Interiors Lead Allison Jessup. 'We needed calm, muted tones with

playful, uplifting notes for children. The base palette is neutral and soothing, with accents inspired by the local bush – brick reds, soft blues – and a strong biophilic ethos throughout.'

In public and ward spaces, complementary colours of Tarkett's Primo Premium Sheet Vinyl flooring help define zones. In the paediatric play area, flooring graphics reference the local Boran (pelican) and the Tuck (musk duck). 'Footprints and playful elements make hospitals less intimidating for kids and encourage family interaction,' says Allison.

Colour also supports intuitive wayfinding. 'Bold accents signal destination points, while neutral tones guide people along the journey,' says Ariel. 'You'll notice staff stations wrapped in colour from ceiling to floor – clear focal points that also keep waiting areas contained and corridors free for circulation.'

Meeting strict hygiene demands

Across clinical areas, a combination of iQ Granit, iQ Granit SD and Granit Safe.T Homogeneous Sheet Vinyl flooring provides durability, easy maintenance and a high-quality impervious finish, which is so crucial in infection control.

iQ Granit combines extreme durability with the market's best life-cycle cost, the static-dissipative Granit SD coordinates with the iQ Granit range, and Granit Safe.T suits heavy-traffic wet areas with slip resistance up to P4/R11 and CodeMark certification.



'Tarkett's iQ Granit performs exceptionally in hospitals,' says David Lauder, managing director at Floor 91. 'The weldability, cove-ability and repairability are excellent. It's dense yet flexible, so it forms coves neatly with heat and welds cleanly, and a sound weld is critical for infection control.'

Primo Premium also handled intricate inlays well. 'For the patterns and shapes, we used templates and double-layer cuts. The product becomes the template, then we hand-cut and inset it,' says David. 'The results are precise.'

Its non-linear pattern with large colour chips makes Primo Premium adaptable for different design schemes and style, supported by coordinated accessories for cohesive installations. This Homogeneous Sheet Vinyl handles heavy-traffic in healthcare spaces and its PUR Reinforced surface means it's easy to maintain.

A milestone in waste management

Both iQ Granit and Primo Premium contributed significantly to the project's circularity goals. 'We consider the entire life cycle of materials,' says Ariel. 'We prefer suppliers who manage products responsibly, and Tarkett does that particularly well.'

Working in a live hospital required a focused approach – installers staged zones to keep wards operating – and a detailed plan to collect and recycle flooring offcuts. 'It was our first Melbourne project – and among the first in Australia – where offcuts were recycled and shipped back to Sweden,' says David. 'We segregated waste on site, consolidated it in Sydney, then sent a container to Sweden. There it's processed, cleaned, re-chipped and fed back into

production. That's a genuine Cradle-to-Cradle® loop, and it builds momentum for industry-wide change.'

'If I had to sum it up, healing is holistic – physical, mental, emotional and even spiritual,' says Allison. 'That's why connections to culture, family and local landscapes matter. The right tones and finishes create spaces that feel soft, natural and calming rather than harsh or alien. Projects like this are rewarding because they genuinely support well-being.'

Hospitals ask a lot of floors. They must be hygienic and impervious, slip-resistant in wet zones, tough under rolling loads, quiet underfoot, and easy to clean with hospital-grade cleaning agents. Tarkett's Healthcare flooring handles this duty of care, and with the ReStart® recycling take-back program, large projects like Latrobe can also meet Tarkett's corporate responsibility goals.

Project: Latrobe Regional Hospital

Products: iQ Granit, iQ Granit SD, Granit Safe.T, Primo Premium

Architect: Billard Leece Partnership

Builder: Built

Installer: Floor 91

Photographer: Tom