Reliability and ageless design draws FIMET customer back

Dr Richard Slattery has run his dental clinic in the Perth suburb of Kinnross for 10 years. He bought his first dental chair, a Fimet F1, in 1993 when he set up the practice and returned to the Finnish manufacturer in 1998 when a dental hygienist’s services were added to the growing practice. Now, with a move ‘up the road’ to larger premises, Dr Slattery has added a third Fimet chair, highlighting his trust in the quality and reliability of the company’s products.

“The original chair was so good,” he says. “It still works so well and it looks just as good as it did 10 years ago.”

Dr Slattery’s satisfaction with his other Fimet dental chairs meant any new chair he considered was automatically compared with the previous purchases. “When I look at other manufacturers’ chairs, I compare them with what I have already got, and the Fimet still measures up as the best value.”

Fimet dental chairs, distributed locally by Fimet Australia for over 15 years, are available in eight models. They offer variations in base styles (side-lift or traditional floor base), foot controllers (cabled or cordless), delivery systems (whip-supported or hanging-hose), etc. to cater for the specific preferences and budget of each dentist.

According to Fimet Australia’s managing director Jeff Gloheesy, the technical features such as the mechanics, construction method, and internal features, are virtually the same on all models. Ninety percent of the chair components are manufactured by Fimet themselves, he adds.

“It is an ageless design. It hasn’t changed in 20 years because Fimet got it right in the first place, and it still looks very fashionable.”

The standard floor box/base is replaced in the ‘L’ series by a side lift (which also houses the connections, etc.) giving the chair a sleeker style and providing easier access to the floor for cleaning. The cordless electronic foot control on the ‘E’ model eliminates floor cables and, in a world-first, uses an inbuilt ‘memory’ enabling the same levers to control both chair movement and instrument operation without needing any manual adjustment from the dentist.

Dr Slattery’s newest chair is a Fimet F1-E, featuring the cordless foot control and a whip-supported delivery system. He was particularly impressed with this latter feature, where a movable side arm supports the instrument tray and the hoses are held horizontally with the instruments resting on a pad (the more conventional system uses a separate cart with the instruments sitting up in holders with the hoses hanging down).

“I really like the whip arm,” he says. “It works very nicely and is positioned so the patients can’t see it. I was worried they’d be frightened by it but that’s not a problem.”

The whip arm design also relieves some of the physical strain the dentist can encounter while working.

“Some of the awards won here.”