



New Practice with Room to Grow

By Meagan Shand, BSc (Health Promotion)

Establishing a new practice in a new shopping centre in the eastern suburbs of Perth, Dr Huy Nguyen has created a modern, spacious, welcoming practice, featuring four surgeries, contemporary lines and a smart design.

Dr Nguyen originally had the idea of a two chair practice, but after consultation with Bill Elsegood, builder and dental fit-out specialist from Dentpro, the plan was upgraded to a four chair practice, making the most of the space available and creating room to grow.

Bill Elsegood said when establishing a new practice in a new area, it's important to look at the demographics of the com-

munity and fully understand the potential for growth. New growth areas are a wonderful opportunity for any new practice. It is essential to build your practice to full capacity from the beginning, with all the surgeries and services in place. If all the services are in place, it's very easy to install the cabinetry and equipment later. The bottom line is to get services in place so the practice can grow easily without major upheaval, it will save you time and money in the long run.

The smart design of this practice allows the four surgeries to fit effortlessly in the space. The steri room sits in a convenient area in the middle of the four surgeries, so

that the nurses are less likely to be seen by patients when walking between surgeries with dirty instruments. The surgeries are designed to meet OCC health and safety standards and facilitate smooth operating procedures. The compact F1 Fimet Dental Unit has been installed which allows clear access to the chair for patients. The Fimet unit can easily be converted to suit both right and left handed operators; and positioned to the assistant's side, before the patient's final rinse, so clean-up can begin with minimal interference with procedures. The surgeries are finished with Laminex Freestyle bench-tops with coved upstands and coloured glass splash-backs.



Other features include Polytec doors, coved vinyl flooring, a slide-out keyboard shelf and a roller door to hide the curing light and amalgamator which are on slide-out shelves.

Bill Elsegood said that one of the key ingredients for getting the surgeries right was working with a competent technician. Jeff Clohesey from Fimet supplied and installed the equipment and showed superior accuracy in placing the services to chair. It was a delight to work with someone of his caliber.





The standout feature of the practice has to be the reception. Walking into this practice is like taking a breath of fresh air. It is roomy, bright and welcoming. The simple and smart design reflects an organised space, which is easy on the eye and puts the mind at ease. The sorbet blues and greens create a fresh, clean contemporary feeling.

Dr Nguyen said he had “been to too many practices where everything seemed cramped and patients feel like they are sitting on top of each other in the waiting room. I wanted to create a feeling of spaciousness in my practice”.

Bill Elsegood said ‘first impressions count’. The reception is the first point of contact for patients and it’s important to communicate the right message from the start. Patients link a modern practice to modern techniques, comfort and better





Summary

The Practice

Principal	Dr Huy Nguyen
Practice	Smiles for Miles
Type of Practice	General Practice
Location	Beechboro, Perth, Western Australia
Size	165.4 square metres
No of chairs	4

The Team

Design	Ego Squared Interior Design Consultants
Senior Designer	Natasha Connor
Construction	Dentpro - Dental, Medical & Commercial Fit out specialists
Project Manager	Bill Elsegood, Dentpro (Registered Builder)

Equipment

Dental Units	F1 Fimet F1-A
Sterilisation	Melag Vacuklav 41-B, SweepZone L+R Ultrasonic Cleaner
X Ray	Villa HF Digital X-Ray Units and Digora Optime Digital PSP scanner
Compressor	Extreme Tandem Oilless
Suction	Omega Terava Dry Process
Software	Dental4Windows

service. Dr Nguyen was very clear in what he wanted; he wanted the colours and space to put his patients at ease and I believe we have achieved that.

One of the biggest challenges for this job was time. For the fit-out company it was getting everything up and running by early October. Dr Nguyen was finishing employment with his previous practice and wanted to start early October in his own practice with everything ready to go. The building license was lodged on the June 10, 2010 and approved mid July. All in all it took approximately three months to complete.

For Dr Nguyen, the challenge came with finding time to organize things. Working full time while trying to put a practice together meant meeting up with people and companies after hours to sort things out. My advice to others in designing a practice is to shop around before making your choice. Choose what's best for your clinic, not what's the best out there.

Cleverly named Smiles for Miles, Dr Nguyen's new practice looks like one of the best out there in the eastern suburbs of Perth, the vogueish advertising graphics on the front window and out-sized phone number cannot be missed.

