

MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Howard Wright wins WAPHU contract with award-winning M8 intensive care bed**

Howard Wright's award-winning M8 critical care bed has been selected as the sole provider in the Western Australian Public Health Unit's contract for critical care beds.

In late October, the M8 also won an award for its design innovations in the prestigious Best Design Awards run by the Designers Institute of New Zealand.

The WAPHU contract means Howard Wright is the sole preferred supplier for more than 170 critical care beds forecast over the next five years across the Western Australian Department of Health's 11 main hospitals as well as regional health centres.

Howard Wright has also been named a preferred supplier with its M7 general ward bed, its M7 stretchers and examination couches, and for its PREMA Advanced III mattress.

In total, the WA state contract could be worth in excess of A\$10 million for the regionally based company which has been designing and manufacturing medical beds since the 1960s, says Howard Wright's CEO, Bruce Moller.

"We are thrilled that every Howard Wright product that we submitted was accepted," says Mr. Moller.

"Orders are already coming through for the M8 bed and we expect more once we officially launch the M8 at the annual Intensive Care conference in Perth this week."

The M8 is the latest evolution for Howard Wright in intensive care beds following two and a half years of extensive research, design and trials with medical professionals both in Australia and New Zealand.

With a design philosophy of "making human care easier", what's innovative about the M8 is that it allows for a wide range of procedures to be performed on the bed without the need to transfer the patient.

A prime example is its unique telescopic pillars at either end of the bed and asymmetric design. Coupled to the M8's radiolucent deck, the bed can be raised for X-ray and C-arm imaging capabilities without shifting the patient.

"The M8 can be raised or lowered to allow a C-arm or X-Ray camera to get as close to all parts of the patient as possible," says Howard Wright's senior design engineer, Doug Birnie.

"An onboard rechargeable battery means the bed can be wheeled into X-Ray and operated without having to be connected to an external power source."

Using a simple keypad, its fully electric functionality means the M8 can be reconfigured to a cardiac chair, into Trendelenburg or reverse Trendelenburg positions, raise the lower leg or the upper body, or raise and lower the height of the bed overall.

With patient handling and lifting a key issue for medical professionals today, this means the M8 dramatically reduces the amount of manual handling for 99% of patients worldwide. This covers the shortest or smallest patients up to the largest and tallest patients at 250 kg in weight or up to 2.2 metres in height.

Howard Wright's focus on making human care easier means that it has handy standard features such as an integrated bed extension and even a linen rack - allowing for spare linen to be hygienically stored during the daily linen changes.

"Our attention to detail has also extended to such features as the head board," reveals Doug.

"When these need to be removed for access to the patient – medical staff can store them in a specific space at the foot end – rather than taking them off and leaning them up against a wall."

Moving and stabilising the M8 has also been made easier for the orderly and smoother for patient with the latest generation of linea castors offering minimum resistance. A central locking and braking system can be operated at either end of the bed with the pressure of a finger.

A full range of accessories can also be bundled with the M8 such as IV poles, a TV monitor tray, and a two size oxygen bottle holders.

Howard Wright's simple, smart, human design approach has recently seen it win significant Australian supply contracts for its M7 medical bed with Cabrini Health, and Healthscope.

In addition, Howard Wright has just won a substantial supply contract for more than 600 M7 beds to the Waikato District Health Board in New Zealand.

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