

Medical-care bed covers all bases

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A HOSPITAL BED designed for intensive care use has just won a Taranaki company a prestigious design award.

New Plymouth based Howard Wright Ltd has picked up silver at the national BeST Design Awards. The company won its silver in the non-consumer product design category at the awards, which were announced in Auckland on Friday night.

Howard Wright's M8 intensive care bed, developed in conjunction with healthcare professionals, is safe to use and requires minimal training and servicing.

Regarded as revolutionary in the hospital care sector, it has full electric functions and X-ray imaging capabilities, allowing a full range of medical procedures to be performed on the bed without the need to transfer the patient.

Largely manufactured in New Zealand both in-house and using local suppliers, the innovative bed features a sliding backrest and leg raise capability, providing greater patient comfort.

Howard Wright is a world leader in the design, manufacture and distribution of medical beds and stretchers, with nearly all of the beds found in



Top bed: Howard Wright Ltd's award winning M8 intensive care bed.

New Zealand hospitals having been produced by the company. Leading industrial designer professor Tony Parker, who was product judging convener at this year's awards and is head of the Institute of Design for Industry and the Environment at the Wellington campus of Massey University, said Howard Wright was a great example of a company that had changed its culture to produce high-quality products for its niche.

"The future of New Zealand's busi-

ness is likely to lie with companies such as Howard Wright, who combine good design and engineering with market research of a very high international standard," he said.

Organised by the Designers Institute of New Zealand, The BeST Design Awards recognise New Zealand's top designs across the categories of product, graphic and spatial design. The awards were established in 1988 and have been held annually since 1996.