

A different tilt on healthy chairs



Gilmore Engineers 'e3k' team took a unique healthcare chair design to a new level.

Queensland engineering ingenuity has helped a Queensland healthcare equipment provider to go one better.

Qfoam Healthcare had a challenge with its specialised 'lifting' chairs, which are a popular aid to the elder-

ly. Qfoam offers several models of chair for use in hospitals, nursing homes, retirement homes and residences and it wanted to incorporate a better lifting unit design.

Qfoam's chairs have been created to provide maximum comfort with

good lumbar, neck and head support while minimising pressure on the coccyx and other bony areas, for people who need to remain sitting for long periods of time.

Qfoam wanted to improve the functionality and design of the chairs, without increasing manufacturing costs. The seating area of the chairs are completely waterproof and quite deep and, in most cases, retain the client without the use of seat belts or restraints.

E3K UP TO CHALLENGE

Qfoam Healthcare threw the challenge to the 'e3k' organisation based at Brisbane Technology Park, a division of Gilmore Engineers.

"E3k generated numerous concepts to simplify the design while maintaining functionality," said company president, Duncan Gilmore. "The concepts were reviewed and rated along with ballpark cost estimates, and the best concepts were presented to Qfoam Healthcare for discussion and selection."

Detailed design was performed by e3k engineers in the three-dimensional computer modelling software SolidWorks. ■