

## PREPARING FOR CHANGE

*Steering for success in our aged care revolution*



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# A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON AGED CARE NORMS

## EVA TILLEY MEMORIAL HOME DESIGNED BY STUDIO TATE

**W**hen you enter Eva Tilley Memorial Home in Melbourne's leafy North Balwyn, you immediately get a sense that it's different to other aged care residences. That's because it is.

The home has re-thought and re-energised an existing offering, developing a thoughtful, inspiring narrative that contemporises aged residential living through social exchange and positive behaviours, while stimulating the senses.

Crucial to the project from the outset was the willingness of the home's CEO Sharelle Rowe, to disrupt the accepted social norms of ageing in Australia and her willingness to be open to new ideas.

"I encouraged the Studio Tate team to push the boundaries and come up with something unexpected," says Sharelle.

"I was open to new thinking and was ready to go out on a limb for great design."

It's this bravery and eagerness that meant Studio Tate was able to challenge the status quo and deliver a result that is a game-changer within the industry—smart in function and aesthetically elevated.

When designing it was important to remember that the communal spaces are still someone's home and with this in mind, the approach took a very personal perspective.

Inspired to provide an elevated aesthetic mindful of both residents and staff, requirements for spatial planning and zoning were priorities, as were using colour and cost-effective finishes to give an interesting and dynamic result to structure and wayfinding.

The approach was underpinned by an inherent understanding of how the new multi-faceted spaces were to be

used, creating zones to accommodate a comprehensive lifestyle program with multiple activities such as art and music classes being able to run concurrently without disruption.

Unexpected design details such as natural stone and impactful pops of colour were incorporated to instantly enliven the space. Sheer window furnishings in the new hair and nail salon were added to filter light on graphic terrazzo stone, with dusty pink walls that are offset by dark blue laminate and the curve of individual arched mirrors forming an inviting space for residents to take a moment for themselves.

Equally unexpected is the 'deep sea' blue fish tank in the memory support wing that acts as an interactive installation to be enjoyed by residents with limited mobility.

Individual character in each wing was provided by colour and form, while customisable features and decorative shelving encourage and add personalisation.

The design in high traffic areas was a key focus on adaptability and dual purpose, enabling a seamless flow for internal and external organised events. Communal spaces and a range of seating options were provided to encourage movement and social exchange.

Our innovative design features include a kiosk with its shop, bar, communal coffee facilities and internal post box to foster connection, while the upbeat multi-functional zone is perfect for Friday afternoon drinks and hosted events.

From the initial feasibility stage, the project took three years to complete, with both residents and staff extremely proud of their new surroundings.

The new home is a functional and aesthetic enhancement of everyday life

for residents and their families, creating an environment they want to be in—thanks to the bold, brave decisions undertaken by Eva Tilley Memorial Home to give an immeasurable lift to their residents. ■

Alex Hopkins is Design Director - Interior Architecture, Studio Tate.

For more information visit [www.evatilley.com.au](http://www.evatilley.com.au)

*Thomas Brooke Photography, interior design Studio Tate.*

