



## ADVANCED MANUFACTURING GROWTH CENTRE

## MEMBER PROFILE

**schiaavello**

The concept of 'anything is possible' has been synonymous with Schiavello since its inception.

Tony Schiavello, a furniture maker by trade, migrated to Australia from Italy in the 1950s, bringing with him the can-do attitude that drove him to set up a business providing interior fit-outs and supplying and installing partitions to Melbourne businesses.

The Australian manufacturing environment has changed considerably since then. To be successful, Australian manufacturers need to be globally competitive and innovative, in terms of processes, products and people.

As a result of these growing demands, in particular over the last 10-15 years, Schiavello is now one of the last remaining commercial furniture manufacturers in Australia, with over 100,000sqm of locally owned and operated diverse manufacturing capabilities. From these dedicated environments, in excess of 100,000 workstations and upwards of 40,000 chairs are produced each and every year.

The company also provides a range of specialist products and services in addition to its office furniture range. This includes a purpose built glass processing facility (Glassworks Pty Ltd), custom modular bathrooms and a range of products for workspace, healthcare, hospitality, commercial, education, retail and living environments. **“Schiavello is a holistic, integrated provider of property development, strategic advisory services, construction and contracting services, manufacturing**

**of building materials, the design and manufacture of furniture products and a broad range of contract manufacturing**”.

Explains Peter Schiavello, the group's Managing Director.

With 1,100 employees Australia-wide, Schiavello's wide range of manufacturing skills and capabilities include specialised engineering and tooling, metal, aluminium and wood processing, plastic injection moulding, electrical component production, powder coating, glass processing, upholstery, solid surface fabrication and casting, assembly operations and many others that can be performed at one location, allowing for tailored solutions. **“If it can be imagined, we can work out how to create it**”

adds Ben Lozankoski, the company's General Manager of Manufacturing.

Behind production of some of the most advanced product in Australia are state-of-the art machines; **“We have laser cutting machines, turret punching, CNC folding machines, welding equipment, both robotic and manual operation. Any material whether it be aluminium, mild steel, stainless steel, or brass; we can machine, weld, grind, polish and assemble.**”

The company sources and manufactures 95% of their products in Australia, from Australian-owned and grown suppliers, making them one of the larger customers of companies such as Blue Scope Steel, Laminex, Capral Aluminium and Dulux.

**“We are committed to supporting local industry**”.

This includes the sustained development of internal trade capabilities, made possible through the company's nationally recognised Apprenticeship Program. In 2008 Schiavello partnered with Victoria University to establish an on-site trades training program, with a full time TAFE teacher located at the manufacturing site in Tullamarine. To date, more than 400 apprentices have successfully completed the program and are currently employed by Schiavello or their suppliers across a range of trades including carpentry, joinery, electrical and glazing.

Many of these skills would be lost off-shore should Schiavello not be passionately committed to manufacturing in Australia. A commitment which led to Tony Schiavello being inducted into the Victorian Manufacturing Hall of Fame in 2008.



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**Peter Schiavello**, Managing Director