

Aspen growth tops Fast 100 list



METEORIC: Aspen Medical's chief, Glenn Keys, and staff. Aspen heads the latest *BRW* Fast 100 list with more than 357 per cent growth. Picture: GARY SCHAFER

By John Thistleton
Business Editor

ACT medical services company Aspen Medical heads the latest *BRW* Fast 100 list with more than 357 per cent growth in the last financial year.

Since forming in 2003, Aspen has enjoyed a meteoric rise providing medical services in remote and difficult environments. Turnover has more than doubled from \$19.4 million in 2005-06 to more than \$44 million this year.

RMIT University in Melbourne researched the Fast 100 list, ranking

companies according to average annual revenue growth in the three years to June 30, 2007.

Aspen has won contracts for removing surgical waiting lists, re-establishing hospital departments and running complete health-care services. In March it launched an aero-medical evacuation service in partnership with Careflight International for the Northern Territory and surrounding regions.

It is in most Australian states, England, Solomon Islands and East Timor and has won exporter and entrepreneurial awards, as well as

the ACT Hudson Telstra Business Award in August.

Founder and managing director Glenn Keys said Aspen was planning to expand into Africa and the Middle East.

While the growth and recognition were spectacular, Mr Keys said patient care was paramount.

"It's a lot, isn't it?" he said of the remarkable growth. "I'd be surprised if we kept that up . . . when it comes to the provision of health care you cannot be blasé about it."

He has not ruled out the private company becoming a publicly listed

entity. Aspen's 160 staff, including 18 in Canberra, is expected to rise to 300 by the end of the year.

Mr Keys said staff were the main recruiters of new staff.

Aspen's clients include the Australian Defence Force and Australian Customs and Department of Health and Ageing. It does not have clients in the ACT.

Its services range from primary care, dental, surgery, pathology, physiotherapy and e-health, which enables leading specialists to provide second opinions and consulting advice to people in remote areas.