

Canberra's Citadel Group buys Australian Business Academy

By John Thistleton
Business Editor

Fast-growing Canberra professional and managed services provider the Citadel Group has acquired the Australian Business Academy.

A business education and training provider specialising in delivering education and employment pathways, the Australian Business Academy has been offering government accredited diploma and advanced diploma courses for more than 14

years in Canberra and Sydney. Citadel Group managing director Miles Jakeman said the acquisition would strengthen the group's offerings by adding a quality learning and development arm to its mix of products and services.

The Australian Business Academy provides education and training to more than 3000 students. It was named ACT small registered training organisation of the year in 2008, 2003 and 2001, and was a finalist on several other occasions.

"We are extremely pleased to bring another quality brand into the CGL fold," Dr Jakeman said.

Australian Business Academy chief executive Benjamin Farinazzo said the academy was among the first education and training providers nationally to be endorsed by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations as a VET training fee help provider.

The move to the Citadel Group would lead to continued growth through exposure to a wider range of

clients and broader service offering, Mr Farinazzo said.

He said was looking forward to joining the Citadel Group team to expand and to improve access to national education and employment pathways.

"This is part of our long-term commitment to supporting the national interest and addressing critical education, skills and employment demands through a life-long approach to learning," he said.

This whole-of-person approach to

learning was aimed at giving people skills, confidence and knowledge to succeed in their chosen careers.

Over the past 12 months student numbers had more than doubled, with the the academy now looking to open campuses in other Australian cities and potentially overseas.

The acquisition completes another strong year for the Citadel Group, which is in its seventh year of double-digit growth.

The enlarged Citadel Group will employ around 350 staff, with annual

revenues of about \$65 million. Citadel Group companies provide end-to-end professional and managed service solutions, such as executive search, recruitment, accredited training, management consulting, video conferencing and audio visual communication solutions.

Dr Jakeman said Citadel was likely to continue to grow from organic and acquisitive actions and was on track to become a \$100 million Canberra-based group of companies within the next two to three years.