

## ABANO WINS TOP 200 AWARD FOR BOLD AND DIFFERENT GROWTH STRATEGY //

**Abano Healthcare Group's successful growth strategy has been recognised in one of the country's top business awards, with the company picking up the EMA Best Growth Strategy Award at the Management Magazine Top 200 Awards on 4 December 2008.**

Judges said: "Abano's meticulously executed strategies for providing care and growing the business have been so successful that the company's shares are constantly sought by suitors wanting a slice of its action. This very clever enterprise is bold about growth and constantly thinking differently about how to deliver its future. Abano keeps growing both its range of services, and the markets in which it operates, without sacrificing profitability. This year's outstanding performance was driven by increased returns from all sectors of the business. Bold and different sums up this company. Its success is the outcome of its strategic thinking and meticulous execution."

Managing director of Abano, Alan Clarke, accepted the Award and praised the management, employees and clinical partners at Abano for their commitment to the company and its growth strategy.

"Competing against Air New Zealand and Delegation Group, both much larger and longer established organisations, Abano's win is a credit to the wonderful executives and teams of people who are our business. Healthcare is a people industry and without the dedication, commitment and quality service from the 1,300 employees who work for an Abano business, we would not be where we are today.

"We are delighted to have won this prestigious award, recognising the effective implementation of our successful growth strategy. This strategy will continue as we expand in our chosen healthcare sectors across New Zealand, Australia and Asia, whilst ensuring increasing returns and profitability for our shareholders."

Earlier this year, Abano was also a finalist in the 2008 Annual Report Awards which honour excellence in annual reporting.

Chief Judge Martin Matthews said: "So much of what happens in our society, and in our economy, is dependent on us being willing to entrust resources, authority or power in others to act on our behalf. In return, we expect results, and we expect full and transparent accountability for these things. That is the role of the Annual Report.

"In my opinion, the commitment to preparing a good annual report is probably an indicator that the organisation concerned has an equally strong commitment to sound performance - such a commitment is something that we need to recognise and value."



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