



HEALTH SOLUTIONS: Aspen Medical managing director Glenn Keys provides surgical care in areas of high medical demand such as conflict zones. Picture: RICHARD BRIGGS

Medical service booms in trouble spots

An award-winning Canberra-based medical business has been working around the globe to rapidly deliver a wide range of health-care services to those in need.

Braddon-based Aspen Medical has been achieving extraordinary things since being established by local medical professionals in 2003.

The firm has built a reputation on providing mobile, emergency medical teams for some of the world's war zones and taking over the running of trouble-hit hospitals including the emergency department in Caboolture in Queensland.

Director and co-founder Glenn Keys said Aspen had branches in Australia, South-East Asia and Europe and described its market as "massive".

"We saw a growing need both in Australia and internationally, for



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Business Reporter

people who could provide surgical care in areas of high medical demand," he said.

Aspen, which has a team of about 250 paramedics, nurses and doctors all over the world, had annual turnover last year of about \$45 million and is targeting \$60 million for the coming year.

Among many other places, it is working in Solomon Islands, which has been wracked by civil unrest since early 2006.

Locals in the Solomons also suffered an 8.0-magnitude earthquake in April this year, which triggered a tsunami, leaving 52

people dead and affecting more than 36,000.

Mr Keys said the company had people on the ground within four hours of the tsunami hitting. It also provided all the health services to Australian Government personnel and coalition forces working on the reconstruction and support of the islands.

Aspen is also about to pick up two jobs in Saudi Arabia where it will provide environmental health assistance, focusing on water and food standards as well as medical support to a remote construction site.

"We have the ability to deliver unique solutions for every customer, no matter what the problem is and wherever the patients are," Mr Keys said. "The solution we have in the Solomons is very different from the one we have in Timor, which is

different from the one we have in Ireland and those we'll have in Saudi.

"But we have a brilliant team and those people are what enable us to do all those things to make a difference."

Mr Keys, who won the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2006, said one of Aspen's greatest achievements had been helping to reduce waiting lists for urology surgery in Northern Ireland from eight years to 30 days.

"It's a remarkable feeling when you do projects like that and are able to see people in need being looked after, getting the care and surgery they've been waiting so long for and recovering from illness," he said.

Aspen is one of 13 of Canberra's top small business finalists vying for this year's ACT Telstra business awards, with the winners announced tomorrow.