

Academies Australasia Group Limited

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Company Announcements Office
Australian Stock Exchange
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ANNOUNCEMENT

BENCHMARK COLLEGE


Academies Australasia Group Limited ('AKG') has entered into an arrangement to acquire 51% of Benchmark Resources Pty Ltd trading as Benchmark College ('Benchmark'), subject to due diligence and other conditions. The arrangement includes the option to acquire additional equity in Benchmark Resources Pty Ltd.

Consideration for the 51%, based on Benchmark's expected maintainable EBITDA of A\$2,800,000 per annum, is A\$5,712,000 satisfied via payment to the vendors of a minimum of A\$2,856,000 in cash (representing 50% of the consideration) and a maximum of 4,760,000 new shares in AKG (representing the other 50% of the consideration). Details of consideration shall be announced at completion.

Benchmark was established in 1998. It is a registered training organisation endorsed by the NSW Vocational Education and Training Accreditation Board ('VETAB'). It offers nationally recognised qualifications across a broad range of areas to students in New South Wales and, for national clients, in other states too. Courses are in areas such as Business, Management, Human Resources, Children's Services, Health and Community Services, Industry Training, Traineeships and Subsidised Training, and Training and Assessment. All Benchmark students are from Australia. Benchmark has operations in Penrith, Tuggerah, Liverpool and Campbelltown.

Benchmark has an excellent reputation in education and training. In 2009, Benchmark won the NSW State Training Award of Small Training Provider of the Year.

Following completion, the current owners and directors of Benchmark, Philip Carroll and Bridget Carroll, will continue to manage Benchmark, as Managing Director and Executive Director, respectively. AKG will have the majority of the seats on the



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Benchmark Board. Christopher Campbell and Gabriela Rodriguez of AKG will join the Benchmark Board. Philip Carroll will join the AKG Board; Bridget Carroll will be his Alternate Director on the AKG Board.


AKG has been operating for 103 years. It now comprises 8 separately licensed education institutions in Sydney, Melbourne and Singapore, focused primarily in the international education market. Notwithstanding the challenges experienced by the international education sector in Australia over the past 18 months, Academies Australasia student enrolments are at record levels. Over the years, AKG education institutions have taught thousands of students from 98 countries. With the addition of Benchmark, there will be 9 education institutions in the AKG group.

Mr Christopher Campbell, Group Managing Director of Academies Australasia, said:

"My colleagues and I are delighted that Benchmark College will be joining the Academies Australasia group. We have been looking to diversify into the domestic education market for some time and are pleased to have been able to attract a quality college with the scope and standing that Benchmark has, as well as the expertise and reputation of Philip and Bridget Carroll.

Some of the courses that Benchmark will bring to the group, will be attractive to international students, and, similarly, some of the Academies Australasia courses will find ready interest amongst Benchmark's clients. The synergies are very attractive. This transaction should be positive for Academies Australasia stakeholders – which includes the vendors of the 51% stake in Benchmark, who continue to be owners of the remaining 49% of Benchmark."

The Benchmark web page is www.benchmark.edu.au



Christopher Campbell
Group Managing Director