

MONEY MATTERS

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Kearney Group Receives National Recognition

It's hard to stand out in a room full of hot pink handbags and fluorescent neckties. But that's just what the Kearney Group managed to do when it was named *National Practice of the Year* at Securitor Financial Group's annual Gala; this year, a black tie event 'with a touch of neon' held in Hobart on April 11.

Brad Cooper, Chief Executive of BT Financial Group, and Securitor's Managing Director, Matt Englund, were in attendance to present the award to Kearney Group founder and CEO, Paul Kearney.

"This belongs to the whole practice," said Kearney, as he called members of the team to stage to accept the award together. "They should be very proud of what they've achieved this year. It's been busy and full of some really significant changes and without the whole practice on board, none of it would have been possible."

One major change was the introduction of the *MyKearney Online* web portal which allows clients to securely exchange and digitally sign sensitive financial documents at the click of a button. Also of note was the Kearney Group's move to electronic Portfolio Reports, introduction of the firm's *Welcome Home Loan* service, and the development of real-time business reporting systems which allow the practice's employees to track performance against targets, view historical trends and assess future performance using complex forward projections.

"Choosing the Securitor *Practice of the Year*," said Matt Englund, "is without question the hardest decision we make all year; to even be considered you must be amongst the very best in the industry. Yet this year, the decision was simple. The relentless focus on what is best for their clients, the attention to detail in running their business, continuous investment in their team and advocacy for our profession made the Kearney Group the obvious choice."

This isn't the first time the Kearney Group has taken home top honours. In 2011, the firm was also named *National Practice of the Year*, and since 2008, the Group has picked up Victorian *Practice of the Year* or *Adviser of the Year* awards on five separate occasions.

Paul Kearney notes the firm's investment ethos and its holistic advice offering as key differentiators.

Jennifer Purnell, State Manager for Securitor believes the Kearney Group's success is due to the firm's "relentless pursuit of excellence and [its] client centred approach."

Whatever the reason for the firm's success, the team is elated.

"We're very pleased," said Kearney. "It's a real honour to be recognised amongst so many other leading practices. We certainly don't take this kind of thing for granted and we'll be doing our best to live up to the name."

For more information about the Kearney Group or its services, please visit www.kearneygroup.com.au. ■■



Practice Profile

- **Established:** 1986 (Kearney Group/ Kearney & Co); 1998 (Kearney Financial Planning)
- **Location:** Abbotsford, Melbourne
- **Employees:** 38
- **Specialties:** Financial Planning, Debt Finance, Risk/ Insurance, Accounting, Taxation, Business Advice and Business Bookkeeping
- **Recognition:**
 - 2014, 2011 *National Practice of the Year*
 - 2014, 2012, 2011, 2008 *Victorian Practice of the Year*
 - 2013 *FPA Best Practice Awards Runner Up* (P. Kearney)
 - 2011 *CPA Young Achiever Awards Finalist* (L. Ezard)
 - 2010 *Adviser of the Year* (P. Kearney)