



**WELL DONE:** Gibaran Learning Group graduate Clayton Whitehead accepts his graduation certificate from Further Education, Employment and Training Minister Paul Caica.

# Graduating to a white collar

**F**OR Clayton Whitehead, making the leap from blue-collar worker to executive worker was a giant step into the unknown.

Previously working for Holden, Mr Whitehead found that as a skilled worker he was competing with thousands of others for jobs.

And so he made a life-changing decision to undertake an MBA (Master of Business Administration).

But rather than invest years of his life in this pursuit, Mr Whitehead chose to undertake Gibaran Learning Group's 12-month MBA course. Conducted on weekends - to fit around students' existing work arrangements - the course is Australian Institute of Business Administration endorsed.

To date, it has helped more than 100 professionals enhance their qualifications. Mr Whitehead had already

completed a management course and worked in a variety of industries, but until he completed his MBA, attractive and appropriate job opportunities were few.

Now, he's general manager for Building Erectors - a progressive hoisting equipment business based at Dry Creek.

"Coming from a predominantly blue-collar working background, I had acquired valuable skills but was never able to achieve the transition from worker to upper management," says Mr Whitehead. "By studying an MBA, I was considered for a senior management position for the first time and moved from an operational role to become the general manager.

"The program offers the non-manager a new perspective and equips you with the ability to explore new ideas, tackle problems and implement new initiatives."

Having previously delivered MBA programs overseas for five years, the Gibaran Learning Group introduced the 12-month course in 2007. Just last month, Gibaran's first two intakes graduated with their ceremony overseen by the Minister for Further Education, Employment and Training, Paul Caica.

"As a graduate of Gibaran, you are part of the changing tertiary landscape in our state," Mr Caica says.

"One that reflects a growing number of specialised and flexible education providers that are helping to make Adelaide a centre of education excellence.

"As quality graduates, you are vital in ensuring SA is appropriately equipped to meet the skills needs of our community, now and in the future."