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Wokinabox managing director Adrian Morrissy, supplier Chris Ang and Sharmalie and Kumar Ranjithkumar.

Top honour for local wok boss

ARMADALE businesswoman Sharmalie Ranjithkumar has beaten the owners of the 14 other Wokinabox stores in WA to win the award for 2007-08 WA Franchisee of the Year.

Mrs Ranjithkumar said that before joining Wokinabox she worked for an international consulting engineering company.

"I was initially attracted to Wokinabox because of its original bright image and its focus on healthy food," she said.

"I now work full-time in the business and really enjoy being my own boss and learning to achieve my business goals, while establishing a unique food brand in the community."

Mrs Ranjithkumar's husband Kumar works as a state manager for a national sales organisation but helps in the business, working

with Sharmalie to try and develop innovative sales opportunities.

"Sharmalie is a 'doer' and enjoys using her talents and energy to ensure the store is successful – winning the award recognised the effort she has committed to the business," he said.

Wokinabox managing director Adrian Morrissy developed the store concept in 2002.

The franchise was recently named in the top five of Business Review Weekly's fastest-growing franchises by outlet and as the Regional Emerging Franchise System of the Year.

"We now have 34 stores across four states of Australia and New Zealand and a group turnover in excess of \$15million – a 47 per cent increase on the previous year. Eighty per cent of our growth in 2006 and 2007 was in WA," he said.