

# AVKO Mining Pty Ltd

## 2007 Telstra Western Australian Business of the Year

From their kitchen table to mine sites across the country, the founders of AVKO Mining Pty Ltd, Paul and Coralie Hurley, epitomise the Australian 'have a go' spirit.

An experienced miner, Paul owned just a couple of hand-held machines and a Ute when he started his own mining contract business in West Kalgoorlie in 1993.

"We certainly always had the desire to be successful, but often you're so busy running the business itself that one day you stop and turn around and - 'wow'," Paul said.

While Coralie looked after the books for the business, Paul undertook airleg and underground mining work, and their determination to succeed paid off. Within 12 months of setting up, AVKO employed eight staff; today they employ over 120 workers across Australia.

"The three factors that we believe are key to AVKO's success are our people, safety and our customer service," Paul said.



Last year, AVKO Mining was named 2007 Telstra Western Australian Business of the Year and national winner of the 2007 Telstra Regional Award, accolades the down-to-earth miner never envisaged when he began.

"You don't go into business thinking you're going to win prizes, but receiving these Awards are great because it allows you to sit back and reflect on what you and your team have achieved," he said.

Ultimately, Paul says, the added credibility

and the networking opportunities the Awards has provided him and AVKO Mining have been the greatest benefits.

"It was terrific to meet so many interesting people and to talk to likeminded business owners," Paul said.

"After all, it doesn't matter whether you are a small or large organisation or what service or product your business provides, everyone faces similar issues and the opportunity to meet with other businesses was extremely valuable."

## 2007 TELSTRA BUSINESS AWARD WINNERS - WA

- **2007 Telstra Western Australian Business of the Year:**  
AVKO Mining Pty Ltd - West Kalgoorlie
- **Australian Government Micro-Business Award** (for businesses with five or less employees):  
Ebiz Solutions - Eaton
- **MYOB Business Award** (for businesses with five to 20 employees):  
Market Creations Pty Ltd - Geraldton
- **Panasonic Australia Business Award** (for businesses with 20-50 employees): Australian Pressure Testing Services - Henderson
- **Hudson Business Award** (for businesses with 50-100 employees):  
AVKO Mining Pty Ltd - West Kalgoorlie
- **AMP Innovation Award** (for businesses that have recently introduced an innovative product, service or process):  
Imaging the South - Bunbury

You may have started with only a garage space, an idea and a stomach full of butterflies. But now you're

industry awards. The competition is open to Australian businesses with up to 200 employees

