



THE STAR

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### STAR APPRENTICE RUSHIN' FOR GOLD

Cristopher Matkowski, a third-year apprentice at The Star Culinary Institute, has been chosen to represent Australia in the WorldSkills Kazan competition in August.

Competing in the "Cookery" event, he will travel to Russia alongside 16 other 'Skillaroos' who specialise in various trades including spray-painting, fashion technology and cloud computing.

Cristopher will compete against 48 other Cookery apprentices, while 1418 apprentices across 69 countries and 56 trades will take part the competition.

The 22-year-old said that although the win came as surprise, it was the culmination of months of training, and guidance from his teachers and mentors.

"I'm thrilled be chosen to represent Australia as part of the Skills Squad. They are a talented group of apprentices and I hope everyone does well in Russia," Cristopher said.

"I wouldn't have had the opportunity to compete without the support of the chefs and team at The Star, who provide young people with the necessary culinary skills to perform in such high-pressure environments."

Dino Mezzatesta, Chief Operating Officer at The Star Sydney, said it was a wonderful achievement, and a testament of Cristopher's dedication to his craft.

"The Star is proud to have been able to support Cristopher through his WorldSkills journey," he said. "We're excited to see him compete on the international stage and know that he'll represent Australia well."

Cristopher said that he developed his love of cooking in the family kitchen, influenced by his Chilean and Polish ancestry.

"Growing up, I would cook with my grandmother twice a week," he added. "That experience instilled a passion that I've had the opportunity to build on through my apprenticeship and training at The Star Culinary Institute."

Last week, Cristopher competed at the Global Skills challenge in Melbourne. Following four days of competition he walked away with a Silver medal behind Russia and ahead of the United Kingdom. He will go on to compete in China in May – as that nation prepares to host the 2021 Worldskills.

Mr Mezzatesta added that vocational education and training was significant to the organisation.

"At The Star, we are training the next generation of world-class culinary team members through full-time and school based apprenticeships.

"We employ around 110 talented apprentices nationally. They will be inspired by Cristopher's achievements, backing him to bring home gold, and want to emulate his performance in future WorldSkills and other competitions."

### **About The Star Culinary Institute**

Established in 2012, The Star Culinary Institute is a dedicated training unit of The Star Entertainment Group, created by some of the best chefs in the business. Led by a dedicated program manager, it provides on-the job training and prospects for future work placement at some of Australia's top culinary and entertainment destinations. It has collaborative partnerships with TAFE NSW & QLD TAFE to deliver bespoke programs.

The Star Culinary Institute provides a dynamic, friendly and supportive environment for apprentice chefs to achieve and excel. The host chefs and subject matter experts play an important part in the apprenticeship experience by providing a strong mentorship program.

### **About WorldSkills International**

WorldSkills is the collective voice for skills excellence and development in vocational, technological and service oriented careers around the globe. Since 1950, WSI has raised the awareness among youth, as well as their parents, teachers and employers, that our future depends on an effective skills training system. Today WSI represents more than 45 skills in over 75 Member countries and regions, all working together with youth, educators and industries to help prepare the workforce and talent of today for the jobs of the future.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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