Christopher Gordon Transcript

Audio Description: An Aboriginal man in his late thirties, Christopher, walks past a ute and towards some chalets. He is wearing a red sweatshirt and black cap. He waves to someone out of sight. The sign on top of the left hand chalet says: Kimberley Hotel WA. Halls Creek. Reception Restaurant Cocktail Bar. He walks through the passageway in between two of the chalets and through a garden area with Bougainvillea and a swimming pool.

**Christopher**: I’m Christopher and I live in Hall’s Creek. I work at the Kimberley Hotel at the kitchen.

Audio Description: Inside, he walks through a doorway with plastic strips. When he exits, he is a wearing a black polo shirt with a red logo and the words Matso’s. Broome Brewery. He pushes open a door into an industrial kitchen and we now see he is wearing a black plastic apron over his clothes. He walks toward a large dishwasher with empty trays underneath, and slides one over the sink. He uses a green cloth or steel wool to wipe and scrub dirty plates and kitchen implements and rinse them in soapy water, then stack them onto the tray. A large pile of dirty dishes are waiting off to one side. He moves quickly from one task to the next, sliding the tray of cleaned plates into the dishwasher and bringing down the hood of the machine. He puts a tray back underneath the bench.

**Christopher:** I wash the dishes and all that sort of thing. Aah, it gets proper busy. It’s always been fast in the kitchen, it’s like straight in from nine o’clock. It’s like six hours.

Really, I learnt how to be patient and how to keep up with all the chefs. And when the boss lets me know “Aah you’ve got a shift to come into, we need you to come in”, I’ll be there straightaway, and I’ll get down to the business of really doing it because I really love coming to work. I wanna go there, I wanna do it. I wanna finish it up. And even the chefs, they turn around telling me: “C’mon, hurry up. Quickly, quickly. Do this, this, that, that”. Aah no worries, mate, no worries! Doing about two things there and three things and then racing back, and then coming back again and aah well they show me how to really do kitchen hand things. It’s like more faster than anybody, that like, I can be honest, it’s like really good fun for me, just coming to work. It’s okay, c’mon, we’re gonna have a fun day now! You know, it’s like that, you know. Every morning, you know.

You feel down? You feel something like that kind? Really, I want to encourage you to step yourself up and all that sort of thing, and how you get up every morning

Audio Description: Through the steamed up glass panel of the kitchen door, we see two chefs, a man and a woman in black pants and long sleeved shirts and caps, at work on either side of the narrow galley benches. Christopher looks up and smiles and chats while he is scrubbing dishes and gives a thumbs up.

At a table in the staff mess area, Chris sits with three female staff, two in uniform and one in casual clothes. They are eating breakfast and drinking orange juice or coffee as they all chat.

**Christopher:** The best part of the job, its seeing the chefs saying “good morning” every morning and having the opportunity to have really good bond with my work chefs and all that sort of thing, you know.

The bosses say that they really like my work, how I do things here, but I don’t really like to boast about it, but it’s really good fun to really have the opportunity to work with all these chefs. I really love all them chefs, they really love doing what they do.

Audio Description: Back in the kitchen, Chris is bent over his washing up. When one of the chefs comes over, they bump fists and have a bit of a chat. The chef claps Chris on the shoulder and they both greet someone off camera. The chef goes round the corner and Chris returns to his washing station. He stacks the clean plates onto a trolley and puts a pile of them onto a spring loaded stand, next to a bain marie in the staff mess. He pushes the trolley back to the kitchen. He stops at the bain marie where another chef is standing and has a chat, then gives him the thumbs up.

On the other side of the galley the male and female chef chat as they sprinkle cheese onto raw pizzas. The female chef spreads tomato sauce onto a couple of empty bases.

A different male chef is collecting dirty trays in the prep area. He takes it over to Chris who is washing up.

**Christopher:** Later on, I’d like to know more about the gardening and go and join up with the gardening fellow here. Like not really take over this job. I wanna have the opportunity to learn other things from gardening business and all that.

Outside, through a curtain of pink Bouganvillea, we see a young man in uniform watering the lush garden area.

**Christopher:** The job, it’s like you know really important to me because I really wanna finish up the rest of my licence thing, and I’m saving for a car. That’ll be the thing that I’m just really doing it for.

In a different scene, a white four wheel drive is driving across a pindan area with low scrub and hills in the background. Closer up we see Christopher at the wheel of the ute, with another young man, Ivan, in the front passenger seat. Ivan is talking and indicating which way to go. They smile and chat.

**Christopher:** I wanna do this because I wanna get down to the business of work and you know, I don’t care what anybody say, anything about anything, but I’m there just to do them dishes, do the work and encourage the chefs that I’m there for them, that I gotta just do it, cause that’s what I gotta do for them.

Audio Description: Back in the kitchen, Christopher walks over to the dishwasher and slides up the large hood. He then scrubs large kitchen trays over the sink.

Christopher and another chef stand on either side of the galley benches and shake hands and chat. The chef has a red and black bandanna and a flowing grey beard.

The scene changes to the exterior we saw previously with pindan, low scrub and hills.

**Text comes onto screen**: About 9 months after filming, Christopher resigned to care for his elderly mother. Some months later, he began part time work – gardening by day and assisting Aboriginal people with safe passage on the Jungarni Juitya Night patrol.

Audio Description: The scene changes to show two photos of Christopher. One is of him is in a high vis shirt and long pants standing with a shovel, next to a fence. The other shows him standing next to Ivan, in front of a white van that says Jungarni Jutiya - Community Connect. Both Christopher and Ivan are giving a thumbs up.

**Text on screen**: He says he enjoys being part of the team and helping the community.

End titles appear. The title says The Lives We Lead Worklife next to a logo of the outline of Western Australia in a pindan colour, with a blue and orange geode inside.

The next slide shows funders and partners:

Government of Western Australia, Department of Communities and says – The Lives We Lead has been funded by the Department of Communities, Disability Services through an NDIS Information, Linkages and Capacity Building (ILC) initiative.

Underneath are partner logos:

WAIS, Women with Disabilities WA Inc, EDAC PWDWA and YDAN