

# Learner Profile

From the Ako Aotearoa co-funded project:  
'Evaluating the effectiveness of support interventions for adult  
dyslexic learners in New Zealand's multiple learning environments'

## Liam Wilkie's Journey

### Background

Liam Wilkie was one of the participants in an Ako Aotearoa co-funded project to discover how best to support adults with dyslexia in industry training, tertiary education and the workforce.

Liam struggled at school and left with low self-esteem because his learning needs were not met. This changed when he undertook a chef apprenticeship for the hands-on activities. Liam's culinary training was organised by Service IQ – and Industry Training Federation. Service IQ Training Advisor, Chris Treacher, recognised early-on that Liam struggled with written work and quickly referred him to Marianne Farrell at Primary ITO to be screened for Dyslexia. Results confirmed Liam's dyslexia so Marianne arranged for special technology and Primary ITO mentor, Roseanne Robertson to support him through his theory papers.

### Achievements

An apprentice chef at the Copthorne Hotel in Wellington, Liam Wilkie is a talented young man.

Liam is 18 months through his apprenticeship and recently won a regional cooking award.

### More information

As part of a recently completed research report on the support interventions for dyslexic learners, Ako Aotearoa aims to champion increased positivity and awareness of adult dyslexia within the New Zealand tertiary education sector.

This comprehensive project report provides valuable insight to how a range of industry training organisations have collaborated to utilise a new effective model to support these learners, but the project team has also developed:



- A short fact sheet on the project report
- Posters to assist with recognising some common signs of dyslexia in adults and where to go next
- Profiles of two talented and hard-working adults with dyslexia who were participants in the research project.



The dish that earned Liam a regional cooking award