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Media Release

THE SKILLAROOS TAKE ON THE WORLD IN THE TRADE OLYMPICS

Power drills, oxy torches, scissors and secateurs are usually amongst the many items you would not take on a plane, but in less than a week the Australian WorldSkills team will be equipped with all the tools of their trades as they make their way to Calgary, Canada to compete in the 'Trade Olympics'.

The Aussie team, known as the Skillaroos, consists of 26 of the most skilful young tradies and apprentices from across the nation. Each team member, deemed to be the best in their chosen trade field, has booked their spot on the plane to Canada to compete at the International WorldSkills Competition beginning on September 1, 2009.

They will all be vying for gold in each of their trade disciplines representing the A, B, Cs of trade skills – Autobody Repair, Bricklaying and Cabinetmaking, to name just a few.

The Skillaroos and competitors from 50 countries world-wide will be stampeding to Calgary to determine who will be crowned the best young tradesperson in the world. Team Australia currently holds a world ranking of fifth and is the highest ranked English-speaking country. A swag of medals in the 2009 Trade Olympics will see the Skillaroos climb even higher.

Cheering the Aussie team on from the stands will be WorldSkills Australia CEO, Mark Callaghan who has been keeping a close eye on the progress of the squad.

"The Skillaroos are now very close to the culmination of their years of hard work. In the past, Team Australia has been the benchmark for excellence in trade, and Canada will be another opportunity for us to show the world what Aussie tradies are made of," Mr Callaghan said.

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WorldSkills Australia is a not-for-profit organisation that has been supporting youth in trade for over 28 years. WorldSkills Australia aims to raise the profile of skill-based vocations through a series of regional, national and international competitions, engaging industry, government and vocational education and training authorities to promote the benefits of skill development as a pathway to a career in trade.

For more information please contact:

Sophie Harley – The PR Edge

P 03 8416 6854 E sophie.harley@che.com.au