Sports Minister Karl Hampton today congratulated a trio of Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) athletes who have been invited to trial with two NRL clubs early next year.

“The Territory Government invests $3 million in the NTIS each year and it’s great to see more of our junior athletes earning the opportunity to trial with the game’s elite clubs,” Mr Hampton said.

“Reigning NRL premier Manly has invited first year NTIS athletes Jake Watts and Dylan Cartwright to train with the Sea Eagles elite squads during a week long camp in January 2010.

“And traditional rival Cronulla has given fellow Darwin High School student Bradley Hansen the opportunity to also trial with the Sharks next year with a strong chance he will play SG Ball Under 18 next year.

“Jake, Dylan and Bradley also have the opportunity to participate in a week long rugby league camp in Canberra in September, to be assessed for future selection into the Australian Institute of Sport under 18s rugby league squad.”

Mr Hampton said the trio was among a growing list of Territory athletes who have followed the NTIS pathway towards a chance at a professional sports career.

“The NTIS has provided many Territorians with great opportunities in life and several NRL clubs have picked up NTIS athletes in recent years,” Mr Hampton said.

“This includes Newcastle Knights and News South Wales winger James McManus, who became the first Territorian to play State of Origin earlier this year, and Sam Irwin who is playing for the Gold Coast Titans under 18s and is a huge prospect for the future.

“I wish Jake, Dylan and Bradley all the best for their future in and out of the sport and look forward to hearing how their careers continue to progress.”

Jake Watts is a hooker/half-back, Dylan Cartwright is a lock forward and Bradley Hansen is a five-eight/hooker/lock forward.

The NTIS is the Northern Territory Government’s centre for sporting excellence for the identification, development and support for the Territory’s talented athletes.
Contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563

Related files:

Hampton.30.07.Schoolboys.pdf (34.17 kb)

Fresh Ideas, Real Results