Des Abbott Named NTIS Athlete of the Year

Hockey superstar Des Abbott has backed up last week’s success at the NT Sports Awards by being named the Foster’s NTIS Athlete of the Year at a ceremony earlier tonight in Darwin.

Sport and Recreation Minister Karl Hampton said Abbott was quickly becoming one of the Territory’s greatest hockey exports after several years of success playing for the Kookaburras.

“The Northern Territory Institute of Sport continues to produce top class athletes who excel at the national and international level of their chosen sport,” Mr Hampton said.

“Des is an Olympic Bronze medallist and was last year named in the 2010 Federation of International Hockey World Team following the Kookaburras’ success at the World Cup, Champions Trophy and the Commonwealth Games.”

Mr Hampton also congratulated Jeremy Hayward (Hockey) and Ashlie Lane (Sailing) for being awarded the Carbine Club NT NTIS Junior Athlete of the Year.

Ashlie Lane also shared the NTIS Striving for Excellence Award for female athletes with Hockeyroo hopeful Elizabeth Duguid.

Ashlie Lane finished school in 2010 and has won many sporting achievements including an equal first place at the 2010 Australian Youth Championships in the Laser Radial class.

She also finished fourth while representing Australia at the World Laser 4.7 Youth Championships held in Thailand.

The NTIS Striving for Excellence Award for male athletes went to rugby league player Dylan Cartwright.

The NTIS Awards were first held in 1997 to recognise the efforts and achievements of Territory athletes on scholarship with the Institute and provide an opportunity to recognise sponsors and supporters of the NTIS.

“During the past year the NTIS has supported more than 150 Territory athletes through squad and individual athlete scholarship programs,” Mr Hampton said.

“I commend the efforts and achievements of the NTIS coaches and support staff, who have been instrumental in ensuring our Territory athletes progress along the pathway to success.”

Media contact: Edwin Edlund 0401 119 563