Minister for Sport and Recreation, Karl Hampton, today congratulated 14 year old, Tom O’Neill-Thorne, who has been selected to represent Australia in Wheelchair Basketball in Dubai.

“Tom has been selected to play for the ‘Emerging Rollers’ team which is the junior squad for the Aussie Senior national team, the Australian Rollers,” Mr Hampton said.

The Emerging Rollers depart today for Dubai, and are set to play in the Faza International Wheelchair Basketball Championship 5-12 April.

The Sanderson High school student will take on teams from Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the Emirates, and Australia.

“Tom is in the under 23 Australian Wheelchair Basketball squad and has been in the NT Institute of Sport scholarship program since June 2011.

“This young man is another example of Territorians doing amazing things, and representing Australia on the world stage.

“I wish Tom and the rest of his team all the very best for the Faza International Wheelchair Basketball Championship,” Mr Hampton said.

The Territory Government has provided a grant of $25,000 to Basketball Australia to host the National Wheelchair Basketball Games in Darwin in 2012, with Sydney Wheelkings and Dandenong Rangers playing national wheelchair basketball league games in Darwin on Friday, 26 April, Saturday, 27 April and Sunday 28 April 2012 at Marrara Indoor Stadium.

Darwin’s wheelchair basketball competition has been running for a number of years, and if you would like to receive information about participation, email wheelchairnt@hotmail.com.

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