Fifteen outstanding Territory junior athletes have been given a unique opportunity to blossom under a scholarship program sponsored by the Carbine Club of the Northern Territory.

The Minister for Sport and Recreation, John Ah Kit today announced the Junior Elite Development Scholarships (JEDS) scheme to be run by the Northern Territory Institute of Sport.

The Carbine Club JEDS scheme will target junior Territory athletes who are competing at a national level in their sport and will see the athletes adopted into the NTIS program with its expertise and resources.

"I welcome the support of the Carbine Club in fostering the talent of Territory youth," Mr Ah Kit said.

"It's very much in line with the Government's strategy to see a pathway provided for our young athletes from the beginning of their careers"

Fifteen athletes have been chosen after a call for nominations last month:

- AFL: Raphael Clarke (aged 17, Darwin); Richard Tambling (16, Darwin).
- Athletics: Cameron Chin (15, Darwin).
- Cycling: Mathew Stephens (15, Alice Springs); Corey Heath (16, Katherine).
- Hockey: Desmond Abbott (16, Darwin); Michaela Mihailou (17, Darwin); Colin Hennessy (17, Darwin); John Anstess (18, Darwin).
- Judo: Nicole Cotterill (16, Alice Springs).
- Swimming: Hayley McKinnon (15, Darwin).
- Tenpin Bowling: Robert Kennedy (19, Darwin), Dane Cuthbert (18, Darwin).
- Weightlifting: Maria Tsoukalas (15, Darwin); Rebecca Brooke (15, Darwin).

The Carbine Club's sponsorship is worth $22,500 and targets selected athletes with a priority given to Olympic, Commonwealth and/or Paralympic sports representatives.

"The NTIS already has three levels of scholarship for 'elite', 'elite development' and 'squad programs'," Mr Ah Kit said.

"But this program will solely assist junior athletes to further develop their athletic aspirations and increase their chances of competing at a national or international level."

Acting President of the Carbine Club, Dick Norris said the club was delighted to take a leading funding role with the JEDS program.

"Since the Carbine Club started in the Northern Territory 12 years ago, one of our objectives has been to promote and foster the development of sport in the Northern Territory," Mr Norris said.

"The Northern Territory Institute of Sport is to be congratulated for devising the JEDS program which is a perfect fit with the aims of our Club."