Four of the Territory's talented cyclists have been selected in the first ever Northern Territory Institute of Sport (NTIS) cycling program.

Sport and Recreation Minister, Delia Lawrie, said the NTIS Cycling program aims to develop selected athletes between 17 – 19 years of age. Cyclists will be trained for National representation at the U19 level and prepared for competition at the U23 level.

“The NTIS Cycling program is a joint initiative between the Northern Territory Government through the NTIS, Cycling Australia and NT Cycling,” said Ms Lawrie.

“This program is a decentralised program based in both Darwin and Alice Springs with Mr John Pyper NTIS Cycling Head Coach (Alice Springs) and Mr Dalmain Hartley NTIS Cycling Coach (Darwin).”

It is a hectic program for the squad with the number of competitions and different disciplines including road, mountain bike and track combined together.

The squad is a selection of elite athletes who have currently represented Australia at the highest level for their age group, or have the potential to represent Australia in 1 or 2 years time.

The NTIS cycling squad consists of four athletes – Mountain bike specialists Daniel and David Johnston (Alice Springs), road specialist Matt King (Darwin) and Luke Gould (Alice Springs).

“Matt King has just returned from the National Track Championships and Daniel has just returned from winning the Oceania Championships in Rotorua in New Zealand,” said Ms Lawrie.

“Matt also came first in the U19 division at the 2006 Oceania Track and Road Championships in New Zealand and Daniel was selected in the Australian U19 Mountain bike team that competed in the World Championships in Italy.

“David Johnston is the Australian National U17 Mountain bike champion and National series leader and Luke Gould was selected by Cycling Australia as a representative at the 2004 Youth Olympics.

“These are huge wins for our Territory athletes on a national and international stage and the athletes will only benefit further from the wide range of performance enhancement services provides by the NTIS,” said the Minister.

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