



Former Busselton hockey player Andrew Hopkins hopes to play for Australia in the Beijing Olympics next month.

Academy offers lifeline

TALENTED athletes will be able to receive training and support to pursue their sporting ambitions when the South West Academy of Sport is launched in Bunbury today.

The academy will offer up-and-coming athletes from throughout the region the opportunity to get training closer to home, reducing stress on those who would have previously had to travel to the metropolitan area to reach their potential.

Hockey player, Olympic hopeful and former Busselton local, Aaron

Hopkins said he thought the initiative was fantastic.

Mr Hopkins said the academy would benefit athletes at a school age who have previously been disadvantaged by the distance from metropolitan facilities, coaching staff and advice.

Introduced to hockey at the age of four, he had the influence of two older brothers and dedicated parents which has led to his success as part of the national hockey team.

The Olympic team will be named on July 10.