

New program benefits the South West

LOCAL athletes can benefit from the development of a South West Academy of Sport.

The academy is planned to travel throughout the region to provide high level sports and development specialist training.

One of the aims of the academy is to help regional sportspeople and their families by minimising the financial burden and stress that comes with extensive travel.

The academy will have an administration base in Bunbury but sports programs will be conducted around the region where there are appropriate facilities.

Specialist training will support athletes selected for the academy and be made available to local sporting clubs and schools where possible.

So far the State government has put forward \$145,000 to establish the project.

The academy is now seeking sponsorship support from South West businesses to meet the costs of providing high level sporting development.

The South West Development Commission plan to take on an initial three sports and provide a scholarship program for other athletes.

The selection of sports will be through an open expression of interest process that will start shortly.

The academy is expected to start operating early next year.