

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### Hall glides into Australian team

Northern Territory Institute of Sport elite athlete, Melanie Hall, has been selected to represent Australia in wheelchair basketball at the Osaka Cup in Japan next month.

Making a return to the Australian women's wheelchair basketball team, the Gliders, Hall has recently returned from a gruelling four day training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport.

Spending much of 2007 on the sidelines with a niggling wrist injury Ms Hall, 31 said she was ecstatic about her return to the top.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to wear the green and gold again and compete and the International level," Ms Hall said.

"During the past year I have worked extremely hard to overcome injury, and the results are showing.

"Osaka is a great tournament for us as we are able to compete against the United States, Japan and Canada, all top world ranking teams," she said.

NTIS Director, Ian Ford today joined Melanie to shoot some hoops and offer his congratulations.

"With support from NTIS staff, Melanie has shown real commitment overcoming injury and being ready to compete at the highest level again.

"It is great to see her efforts rewarded," he said.

The Osaka Cup will give Hall the opportunity to continue to impress selectors in the lead up to the Beijing Paralympics, with the final team announced after the Gliders May Selection Camp.

Following the Osaka Cup, Hall will rejoin her team mates, the Queensland Comets, to compete in the 2008 Women's National Wheelchair Basketball League season.

Ends

*Media contact: Nichole Taylor 8999 8302 or 0437 621 433*

*Contact: Sean Cooke, Manager Sport Programs on 8922 6819 to talk to Melanie Hall.*