

We now have two full-time development officers at Football Federation Tasmania, Kurt Reynolds, a former Joey, is in the north, based in Launceston. Anthony Alexander is in the south, based in Hobart.

Kurt has been in the role since December and Anthony joined FFT on Monday, having moved here from the mainland.

A former high performance coach for ACT, Anthony holds the C Licence and will take his B Licence this July. He has an FFA recognised Futsal coaching certificate.

The roles of the two individuals will be important as we move ahead in implementing the Football Federation Australia national curriculum.

Both will be involved in coaching state players and instructing on coaching courses. They will also liaise with and visit schools and clubs to put on sessions and workshops. Both will be working in programmes to promote small sided games, five-a-side football and Futsal.

FFT Futsal, run very successfully by FFT Special Projects Officer and Under 14 male state team Head Coach, Dale Itchins, will expand into the north next summer.

Anthony and Kurt will have another crucial job, to actively help identify Tasmania's best young football talent.

In line with the FFA curriculum, Centres of Excellence will open before the end of the year, one in the north and one in the south.

During the 2010 season, eight year old male and female players will be scouted and a select few will be invited to train weekly at the Centres, thus entering Australia's new Advanced Player Pathway. These players will remain with their clubs.

In 2011, a second batch of eight year olds will be invited in and so on until the very best eight, nine, 10 and 11 year old players are training part-time at the Centres. At age 12, the players become eligible to graduate to the full time state programme, beginning with the under 13 squads. At this stage, FFT becomes their club.

Only the most highly qualified FFT coaches will instruct at the Centres of Excellence, having been additionally trained on special FFA Skills Acquisition Trainers courses.

There is a further kicker. Training at the Centres, as mandated by FFA, will be free.