

Kart deal revs up Dodge's career

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CAIRNS kart driver Lydon Dodge will no longer have to worry about driving across the country to follow his sporting dream.

Dream: Lydon Dodge is a step closer to realising his dream after securing a factory drive with CRG.

Dodge, 20, has just secured a factory drive with kart racing group CRG, meaning he now has the ability to compete in each state championship this year.

Unlike previous years, Dodge's team will transport his kart to each event.

It means the family motorhome, which has travelled much of the country, will spend more time stationed in Cairns as Dodge focuses his attention squarely on the racetrack.

He said the new deal would hopefully bring him one step closer to realising his ultimate racing dream.

"It's awesome, it's one step closer to ending up in a V8 Supercar," he told *The Cairns Post*.

Dodge came to CRG's attention after a string of successful results last year. He won the Queensland Country Titles in Cairns and finished ninth in the national championships at Sydney's Eastern Creek.

In this year's nationals in Launceston in March, Dodge is planning to break into the top five.

"Of course I'd always like to win but the top five is the aim," he said.

"More of my race meetings now will be against national-class drivers, which means increased competition.

"If you are always driving against second-class drivers, there is only so far you can go."

On top of the factory drive, Dodge said his racing career could not have been possible without a string of sponsors.

Autobarn, Underwood Hire, Russell Race Engines, TJ Microsystems and Paramount Hire are all backers of the rising Cairns star.

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