

Tamsin backs move to country

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A DUAL Olympic Games representative, Tamsin Barnett-Hinchley is looking forward to Victorian beach volleyball going regional.

Although Barnett-Hinchley will not play in the Virgin Blue Regional Series matches in Bendigo on December 11 to 13, she is looking forward to what the initiative will mean for young athletes in regional towns.

Growing up in Ballarat, she recalls how special it was when an international indoor volleyball tournament came to town.

"We had an international tournament come to Ballarat and it was awesome for the local volleyball players and the community," she said.

"When you watched those players you could see where you could go and what you could be as a player."

The champion volleyballer, who went close to a medal in the pairs event at the Beijing Olympics, said the idea behind the Virgin Blue Regional Series was a great adaptation of what is done on the world tour.

"On the world tour we play in the middle of town, all over the world," she said.

"We've even played under the Eiffel Tower.

"It's a bit of a party atmosphere."

Barnett-Hinchley's husband Al will be competing in Bendigo, and Tamsin is looking forward to getting involved in the atmosphere of the event.

"Even though I would love to play, it's going to be a lot of fun to come and watch," she said.

"It is a one-court tournament, so it will be really good to have everyone able to support each other."

Tamsin is looking forward to getting involved in the next stages of the Virgin Blue Regional Series when it heads to Geelong, Frankston and Moama next year in order to get herself back into the sport professionally.

"I'm looking to get back on the world tour and then winning that elusive Olympic medal," she said.