



Top hope: Damian Fyfe, of Stirling, is one of WA's best young swimmers and is competing at the Australian Age Championships this week. Picture: Simon Santi

Fyfe, 15, laps up hard work in search of dream

■ Bridget Lacy

You get the feeling 15-year-old schoolboy Damian Fyfe is destined for big things.

The swimmer juggles study as a Year 11 student at St Stephen's in Duncraig with training nine times a week and speaks with a maturity beyond his years.

He was the sole WA representative at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival late last year on the

back of breaking the Australian 100m butterfly record for his age group at the Australian Age Championships in April.

Fyfe is one of WA's best hopes at the Australian Age Championships in Adelaide and last night clinched silver in the 200m backstroke final.

He is set to swim today in the 200m butterfly and will also compete in the 100m butterfly and the 200m and 400m freestyle.

He is rated No.1 in the country in

three of those events, but Fyfe is not getting ahead of himself.

"I am feeling good for it and just hoping I can give it my best shot in all of those events," he said.

The Perth City swimmer got serious about the sport four years ago and has dreams of the Olympics.

"I would really hope so but I have just got to stay focused and keep looking at present goals," he said.

Fyfe admits he has a heavy workload with several events.

"I am just trying to keep a really broad range of what I can do," he said.

Perth-based sprinter Yolane Kukla, 17, last night won gold in the 50m freestyle in 25.14sec.

Robert Evans of Peel Aquatic took silver in the 100m breaststroke for boys aged 17 and 18.

Fellow WA teenage rising stars Tamsin Cook, Grace Hull, Braga Verhage, Alex Milligan and Ella Cossill are also strong chances.