



Looking ahead: Olympic swimmer Blair Evans back home with her silver medal and new tattoo. Picture: Astrid Volzke

## Focused Evans takes shot at critics

■ Rhianna King

If Blair Evans ever needs a reminder of "the best two weeks" of her life she need look no further than her wrist, which now bears a tattoo of the Olympic rings.

A Perth tattoo parlour was the first step for the 21-year-old swimmer after arriving home this week from her first Olympics.

Evans, who said she was still recovering from partying after the Games, was also straight back in the pool ahead of next month's short course championships in

Perth. She was already missing life in London's Olympic Village.

"It was good to get out with the team and let our hair down and celebrate the week that we had," she said.

While she was a prolific Twitter user during the Games, Evans tried to block out media coverage, including speculation she and American swimming sensation Ryan Lochte were romantically involved.

"Ryan and I have been great friends for years and I really admire him as an athlete and a person — that's as far as it goes," she said.

She said her new tattoo would motivate her as she worked towards Rio de Janeiro in 2016.

Evans won a silver medal for her role in the 4x200m freestyle relay heats. She said it was disappointing not to compete in the final, but she was thrilled to come home with a medal.

And to the critics who questioned the work ethic of Australia's Olympians, Evans had only one message.

"I'd welcome anyone to a training session to see how hard we work," she said. "I can guarantee it's no less than others have been doing."