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Australia Wins Bronze in Men's Relay at World Championships

August 1, 2025

– Categories: General News



Australia's rising swimming talents have claimed a bronze medal in the men's 4x200m freestyle relay at the World Aquatics Championships in Singapore, showcasing strong Olympic potential ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Games.

The young relay team, Flynn Southam (20), Charlie Hawke (22), Kai Taylor (21), and Max Giuliani (22), delivered a stellar performance to secure Australia's 13th medal of the championship. Racing against elite global competition, the Australians finished third with a time of 7:00.98, just behind China (7:00.91) and gold medalists Great Britain (6:59.84).

Southam, who swam the first leg, helped set the tone early with a strong opening lap before encouraging anchor swimmer Max Giuliani with what he described as a “secret boy stuff” pep talk. Speaking to Australian legend Cate Campbell after the race, Southam praised Giuliani as “one of the best racers I know.”

Despite their youth, the swimmers showed maturity and composure on the world stage. Giuliani and Hawke, both 22, swam solid middle and anchor legs, while Taylor, son of Olympic medallist Hayley Lewis, kept the momentum going in third position.

“It’s so impressive for us to come together,” said Southam post-race. “The future’s bright. It’s like our 4x100m team. It makes me so excited and so desperate to win in LA.”

Charlie Hawke, who made his debut for the Dolphins on Friday night, described the medal as “a truly special moment.” The Newcastle-born swimmer was all smiles as the team celebrated poolside.

The team’s result not only adds to Australia’s growing medal tally but also signals a promising next generation of swimmers prepared to uphold the nation’s Olympic legacy. With their eyes already set on the next Games, the young quartet stands as a hopeful preview of things to come in LA 2028.