## Why Latrell Mitchell Should Be Australian of the Year

To be eligible for Australian of the year you must have had a significant contribution to the Australian community and nation, be an inspirational role model for the Australian community, demonstrate excellence in their field and be awarded the Local Hero award which acknowledges a significant contribution at a local community level. Latrell Mitchell exceeds these criteria with flying colours and my argument today will have you opening your mind to the fact that Latrell Mitchell is one of the best and most deserving candidates Australia has ever seen for this prestigious award.

Latrell has not only made a significant contribution to the Australian community and nation but also has been an inspirational role model for many in the Australian community. The fact that this Aboriginal Australian can make it to the highest level of his chosen field is honestly outstanding. To all young Aboriginal kids out there who don't have a general direction for their life, they can look to him for salvation and guidance in the fact that if they work hard enough and believe in their dreams, they can truly become their best possible selves. For this reason alone, it makes him an inspirational role model in the Australian community and demonstrates the significant contribution he has made to all the Australian kids out there by lifting their personal believe and resolve in their own lives. Just to make this argument iron clad, Latrell Mitchell has grown enormously as an Indigenous leader who insists on being at the heart of everything his team does to address social issues within their Indigenous communities. Whilst at the Roosters, Latrell was an ambassador for a variety of programs and organisations such as the Roosters' NAIDOC Schools Program, Roosters Against Racism, and the club's community partner, AbSec (the Aboriginal Child, Family and Community Care State Secretariat). Latrell is committed to closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. He uses his popularity to raise awareness of social issues, such as the increased risk of cardiovascular disease among Indigenous Australians. Having lost a younger cousin to an undiagnosed heart condition, Latrell wasted no time in fronting the St Vincent's Hospital Heart Health campaign and has been vital in communicating this message in the community. These comments clearly recognise the fact that Latrell Mitchell has had a significant contribution to the Australian community and nation, and is an inspirational role model for the Australian community.

Further to these achievements Latrell has demonstrated excellence in his field and should have been awarded a Local Hero award. Demonstrating excellence in their field is not an issue for Latrell Mitchell, with him already winning two premierships in the NRL and being to three grand finals in total in such a short career so far is impressive, but he was also the highest scoring player on both winning teams for those seasons. It is clear to see that Latrell is a vital part of any team he is playing on, and he presents and produces a strong presence on the field, which fulfills the demonstrating excellence in their field category to a tee. Latrell

Mitchell has not won a Local Hero award but in my opinion, Latrell Mitchell should have already won the Local Hero award. Latrell goes down regularly to his boyhood club, the Taree Red Rovers and introducing hope and a dream in those young boy's hearts that they too can come from anywhere and make it to the big time if they work hard enough. This act clearly demonstrates a significant contribution at a local community level for the Local Hero Award. After knowing the facts, you can now clearly see that Latrell is demonstrating excellence in his field and should be awarded a Local Hero award.

My stance on Latrell Mitchell being awarded the Australian of the year should now be shared with you on the fact that with my undeniable case and facts presented today, Latrell Mitchell is the best and most deserving recipient of this award.