



# NOMINATION FOR THE MATT HUGHES FOUNDATION "AIM FOR EXCELLENCE" AWARD 2026 – Year 7-11

## Background:

Matt Hughes was a well-known and respected member of the Dalby community who died from cancer in 2019. Dalby State High School has been associated with the charity established in Matt's memory through participation in the Matt Hughes Charity Shield day, where our Rugby League team plays a local derby against Our Lady of the Southern Cross College. In recent times, the school has also partnered with the Matt Hughes Foundation to establish a bursary program supporting students entering their senior phase of learning as well as sponsoring this major sporting award, the "Aim for Excellence" Award.

In both his trade as a builder and as a sportsman, Matt knew that success results from hard work and team work. He placed a high value on respecting others and valuing the contribution of others. Matt acknowledged the time that other people put into his sporting endeavors and he worked hard to make sure that his contribution was 100 percent. Most importantly though, Matt was a good person, a valued team member and a mate to many across the fields and codes of the Dalby sporting community.

## The Award:

The Matt Hughes Foundation "Aim for Excellence" Award acknowledges a student who demonstrates qualities associated with working hard in a chosen sport in order to improve. Further to this, the award recognizes the personal qualities of a student who develops positive relationships with team mates, coaches and officials. This award is not about being "the best" but it is about being "your best" – dedicated, hard-working and appreciative. The "Aim for Excellence" Award is underpinned by the school's core value of Respect.

## Application Process:

Application is by the attached form which will be considered by a panel consisting of school staff in consultation with the Matt Hughes Foundation.

Applications will be accepted from students currently in year levels 7-11.

The application form will be used to short-list applicants. An interview with the selection panel may then be conducted to determine the successful applicant.

The decision of the selection panel will be endorsed by the Matt Hughes Foundation. This decision will be final.

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE MATT HUGHES FOUNDATION "AIM FOR EXCELLENCE" AWARD CLOSE ON  
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2026.**

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Roll Group: .....

Outline how you demonstrate the qualities associated with working hard in your chosen sport in order to improve and be "your best".

