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To whom it may concern

Russell Matthews (DOB 21/3/1950)

I have assessed, counselled and written many reports on Russell Matthews since 1976 when he was a commerce student at the University of Queensland. He had suffered a brain stem injury from a fall from a horse just after he had completed Senior. His results in Senior were exceptional. As a result of the brain stem injury he suffered a major depressive illness and was treated with ECT and a variety of antidepressants.

To my knowledge, he has suffered at least two further accidents since that initial injury in which he suffered further brain damage including frontal lobe damage and some cortical atrophy. Nevertheless, he returned to the University of Queensland and over an extended period of time completed further studies, including a Law degree.

He has various diagnoses over the years. In fact, he has suffered cognitive and personality changes consistent with his brain damage. His judgment, decision making and social competence is significantly impaired and he has become vulnerable to ridicule, exploitation and what he perceives as harassment. He lives a reclusive lifestyle and his self-care, maintenance of his home and personal effects have deteriorated over time. He could be described as suffering from a schizotypal personality disorder consequent of his head injuries. Nevertheless, it does not impair his ability to conduct his own affairs

Russell Matthews suffers cognitive, personality and social impairment, which is likely to make him a target for others.

I saw him on the 29 September 2005 at my Brisbane office. His thinking was pressured, over inclusive, tangential and irrelevant. To cope with his disorganized thought processes I taped part of his interview. Russell was also extremely anxious, agitated and ruminating depressively about the way he perceived himself as having been treated by various people and agencies that he believes see him as an easy mark.

When anxious and agitated Russell's ability to perform and complete relatively simple written assignments deteriorates markedly. He was in that state when I saw him. He told me he had a deadline to make some submission on his legal matters. It is my understanding that Russell Matthews has this deadline in the near future.

In the past given time, Russell Matthews was able to excel academically. Given time he would do this matter justice.

Russell Matthews (DOB 21/3/1950)

I would strongly support the court in any special consideration and/or special arrangement the court can make that takes this time pressure off Russell Matthews and allows him to approach this task calmly and in his own time.

B. E. Hazell

Dr. Brian E Hazell
Clinical, Counselling and Forensic Psychologist