

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

**Reference in support of Gay Brown
10 November 2002**

I have known Gay Brown for six years now, during the time when she and her husband were based in Indonesia, a country moving through a continuous political transition, and therefore calling forth special commitments and skills for those expatriates who remained in residence.

At a personal level I found Gay extraordinarily courageous and resilient in facing external civil unrest whilst maintaining her work commitment. She maintained an optimistic attitude at times of considerable difficulty, an engaging and caring personal attention to others: a person one values as a friend not only in times of crisis, but through life.

I have limited direct knowledge of her professional capacity as a teacher. However, whilst not having monitored this capacity directly, I do know from other teachers who shared the teaching experience with Gay, that she was widely respected for her ability to communicate, inspire and maintain enthusiasm and discipline amongst her students – again, even during times of external civil stress. Rarely in Australia does one confront such a context for one's professional performance. To maintain the ability to teach well under these circumstances reflects a level of courage and commitment that therefore far exceeds that normally called upon within the more normal teaching experience. Once one's professional skills are honed in this environment of difficulty, the capacity of someone like Gay to teach and communicate within a more stable context are of superior quality.

I would add that Gay's interest, commitment and initiative is reflected in the fact that she voluntarily accepted additional English language tutoring of students from a wide variety of backgrounds in her own home for which she was widely respected and popular amongst parents and students alike.

I therefore commend Gay Brown to you, and would welcome any enquiries you may have concerning a specific position for which she may apply. I can be contacted in Indonesia through my Office phone numbers and address within the United Nations Building – specified below.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stephen Hill, AM, FWIF, FTSE, PhD

Director, Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific,
UNESCO Representative to Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor Leste

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

Address:

UNESCO Office, Jakarta, United Nations Building
Jl. M.H. Thamrin 14, P.O. Box 1273/JKT
Jakarta 10002, INDONESIA