

Fiji - Australia Teacher Education Project

Griffith University

Fiji College of Advanced Education

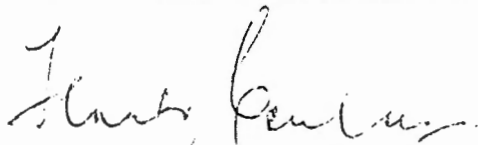
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

MR KEVIN R CASSELL

I have known Kevin Cassell professionally since January 1995 when he was appointed to the recently established Fiji College of Advanced Education as a teacher educator in the areas of English and Sociology. He joined a team of local lecturers who had been recruited from Fiji secondary schools and who had no experience of teaching at the tertiary level. A team of Australian advisers, including myself, was also present at the College when Kevin arrived. His task has therefore included both the teaching of secondary student teachers and the transfer of post-secondary teaching skills and approaches to his locally-appointed colleagues. His performance in each of these areas has been exemplary.

As a teacher Kevin has a strong intellect, great enthusiasm, and outstanding communication skills. These strengths have served him well here. Communication in Fiji classrooms is a challenging task at all age levels. Classes are generally mixed-racial and include ethnic Fijians and Indians. Although the medium of instruction is English for both ethnic groups, it is their second language. Kevin has made a sensitive appraisal of the various learning difficulties which confront these groups and has developed approaches which address them very effectively. I assume that his recent teaching experience in Japan has provided him with important insights into the issues which he has confronted so effectively here in Fiji. Evaluation of his teaching by students and his colleagues is strongly positive. His teaching is described as having intellectual depth and challenge, humour, dynamism and clarity. At a personal level Kevin is open and honest and always interested in exploring new ideas. In conversation he is an excellent listener and a constructive contributor. He is well-liked and respected by staff and students alike.

He is an outstanding lecturer and he has my unequivocal support for any lecturing position for which he may apply in his areas of specialisation.



Professor F Coulter
Office for Research
International Project Development
Griffith University
BRISBANE

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