

29 August, 2008

Re: Reference for Abigail Sykes

Dear Sir or Madam:

It is my pleasure to write this reference for Abigail Sykes and recommend her to you.

Abigail joined the Ministry of Education's Information Technology Group (BaSIS) in early December 2007. Her role included two functions: providing secretariat support for the ICT Standing Committee, and development of communications to support of IT services in the education sector. I worked with Abigail on the latter of these.

Abigail and I worked closely on a range of projects, including the development of communications strategies, managing in-house focus groups, and planning and writing communications materials. I can recommend Abigail without hesitation. Her interest in communication reflects her passion for journalism and telling a story for the audience. Abigail brings a strong combination of intelligence, professionalism and practicality to every task asked of her. She is thoughtful, articulate, committed to quality and conducts herself with great dignity.

Abigail's role has demanded a lot, particularly her role involves maintaining relationships with several senior managers, each of whom have had very different expectations and working styles. Her ability to deal with ambiguity and to see opportunities to find middle ground between conflicting viewpoints has been invaluable.

The high regard of Abigail is reflected in the confidence senior managers have held in her to rise to these challenges. For my part I have depended on Abigail for her attention to detail, her constructive criticism and insight.

While I am disappointed that Abigail is leaving both the ministry and New Zealand, I am also excited to see where the next leap in her career takes her. It has been my pleasure to work with her. I know she has the will and ability to succeed in whatever task she takes on.

I wish Abigail the best for the future.

Sincerely,



Steve Janes
Senior Communications Adviser
Office of the Chief Information Officer
Ministry of Education