

○ **R. WOODWARD-KRON, J. HAMILTON, I. RISCHIN, & L. REMEDIOS, *I'M FEELING A BIT CROOK***

(UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE, DVD-ROM)

Anyone familiar with the area of communication within the medical setting will be aware of the centrality of dialogue between patient and health practitioner. While a number of resources exist to address English language use within a medical context, targeted at the overseas trained health practitioners (Bartram, Arakelian & Magnall, 2006; Burnard, 1992; Glendinning & Holmstrom, 2005; Glendinning & Howard, 2007; Goodman, Edwards & Black, 2006 amongst many others), publications targeted at the Australian context are rare. *I'm feeling a bit crook* is a DVD resource created specifically for overseas born, non-native English speaking students who undertake training in the fields of medicine and health sciences in Australia. The DVD is therefore a much-needed point of reference for those students wanting to further explore their Australian English skills within clinical settings.

In order to view the DVD you will need to have a computer Pentium III 200MHz running Windows XP or later or PowerMac G3 400MHz running Mac OS X version 10.2.5 or later, a DVD-ROM drive, 512MB RAM or greater, a web browser (Firefox 1.5 or later, Internet Explorer 5 or later), QuickTime 6.5 or later and Adobe Reader 5 or later. The DVD is presented in an .html format and is separated into 3 major sections (overseas born students' impressions of studying health and health sciences in Australia, student-patient consultations, and library). A final section is a dedicated glossary of colloquial Australian English terms (both medical and non-medical terms).

While there are some issues with navigating around the program (lack of navigation tools to lead you back to the main menu from individual sections), it is quite easy to use, and well set-out. Although there appear to be a few bugs in the set-up, for example, when opening a video presentation it opens in a separate window as well as in the main one, the overall quality of the DVD is very high.

In terms of content, the first section of the program presents *overseas born students* speaking on their "Impressions of Australia and Australians", as well as their impressions of the clinical relationship in their various disciplines, between health practitioner and patient. The inclusion of these perspectives is an interesting take on studying within Australia that could serve as the basis of discussions for instructors and students. However, the students presented here appear to be only a small sample, and it is unfortunate

that these perspectives are not further explored in terms of how representative these opinions are with relation to the overseas born student. While general impressions of the students appear at times to be largely stereotypical (i.e. the Australian who is very friendly and relaxed but one that also drinks to excess), the students' impressions from clinical visits give a good idea of the cultural differences that might pose difficulties to overseas born students. Despite the limited discussion of the representativeness of these opinions, this aspect of the DVD is not only relevant to the intended student audience, but provides points of reflection that could be incorporated by instructors into curricula.

In the second section of "Student-patient clinical consultations", several examples of students taking histories from patients are presented. While the consultations might not be faultless on the part of the students, they do help the audience to understand the topics at issue (for example, social history, alcohol consumption etc.) as well as presenting the type of language that students are likely to come across within the clinical consultation. It would also have been useful to see a few more consultations related to other health sciences (such as a nursing consultation, for example), as the majority (3 of 4 cases) presented relate to medicine. Such figures indicate that although the program is marketed for students of medicine and health sciences, there is a focus on medicine. However, if this reference is to be used as a tool to further discussions with students, each discipline would use these only as a basis.

The third section on the "Library" presents a collection of newspaper articles on a number of topics relevant to an overseas-born audience. These selected newspaper articles discuss issues of culture and language across subjects such as alcohol and its role in Australian society, Aboriginal health and issues, overseas students and others. While the number of articles presented is minimal (at times only one resource per topic), they are directed at a general audience and are easy to access and read (an important consideration for this resource). As within other sections, the topics discussed in these articles could provide the basis of further exploration of these important cultural and language issues.

Finally the "Glossary" presents some of the most prominent Australian colloquial language that students are likely to encounter within the clinical setting. While the list is obviously non-exhaustive, it does provide a good sub-section of the terms (both medical and non-medical) that represent colloquial Australian English.

Overall, this reference is one that is desperately needed for the medical and health sciences student, and their instructors, and although there are some gaps, it will provide a solid basis for a both medical and health sciences students and their instructors to focus on issues such as culture and language that are inherent to any clinical consultation.

Review by Rachel Varshney, Department of Linguistics, Macquarie University.

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