

# Teaching International Legal Students – What is best left unsaid? Not!

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# “Out of classroom” issues

- What difficulties to international students face?
- Characteristics of these difficulties
- Discussion - extent of the difficulties



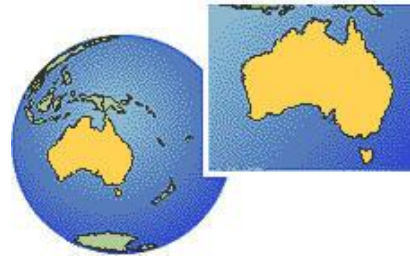
# The cultural uniqueness of language

- [“You call that a knife phenomenon”](#)
- Accent
- Culture
- Stereotypes
- Humour



# Cultural norms/social context in Australia

- Expectation of understanding of cultural norms/social context in everyday discussions.
- These are often unique to local circumstances.
- An innocent example. Discussion of sport and politics
- A more culpable example, an expectation of alcohol consumption



# Expenses

- Financial barriers to comprehensive learning.
- Course fees, which exceed those of local students
- Living away from home expenses
- Need to work long hours
- Impacts on learning ability in class



# Limitations of the student visa

- Employment restrictions, often a condition of student visas.
- Unlawful working hours



# Finding work

- Restricted hours
- Type of work
- ‘Like employ like’
- Expected to work for less
- Cash payments



# Personal questions

- Too much information
- Are you married?
- Do you have a girlfriend?
- How much do you earn?
- What is your religion?
- Why do they “pry”?





# Other issues?

- How do they manifest themselves in your classroom?



# Conclusion

- Need for research regarding our approach to teaching international students.

