



Universitas 21

The transcultural education of future dental science students



U21 Partnership



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Phase One Literature Review

- Analysis of intercultural issues related to dental practitioner/patient communication, from a cultural perspective
- Analysis of the demography of dental service provision related to cultural diversity in the practitioner, the student and the public sector patient base
- Audit of national and state/region-based intercultural dental education curricula to the degree that these have been developed



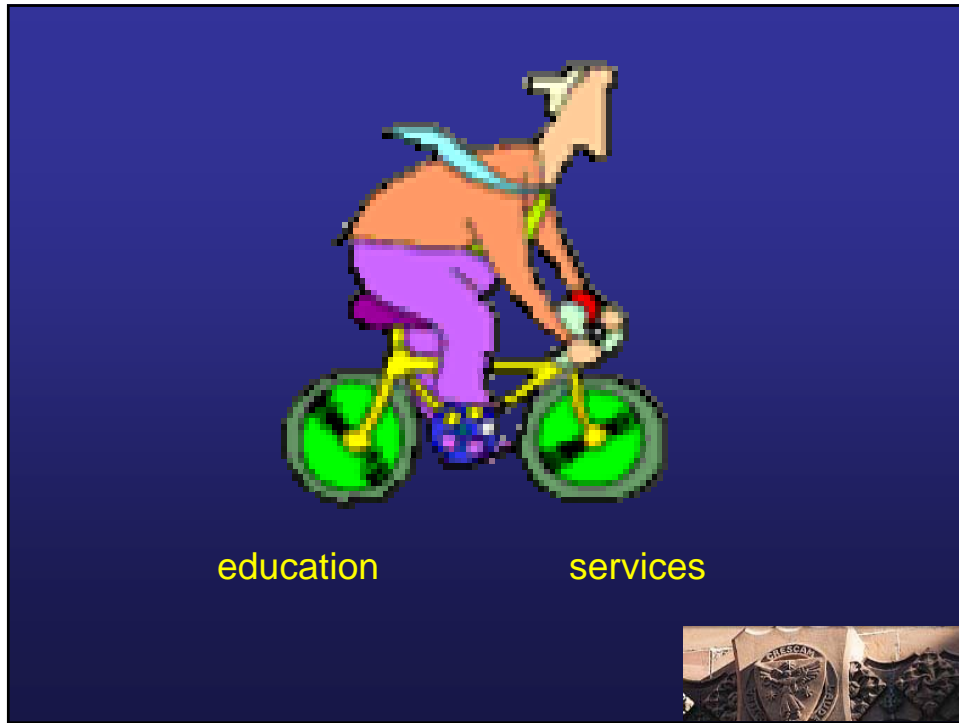
Phase Two Survey Instrument Design

- draft survey instrument to be prepared, targeting dental educational institutions and current dental students (all origins) in the U of M and UBC, addressing the research issues

Phase Three Refinement of Literature Review and Survey Instrument

- Literature review and instrument to be refined, following input from both UBC and U of M





Literature review and direction

- The demography of the Australian and Canadian populations
- The case for transcultural education of health professionals
- The demography of dental science courses: Australia
- The demography of dental science courses: Canada



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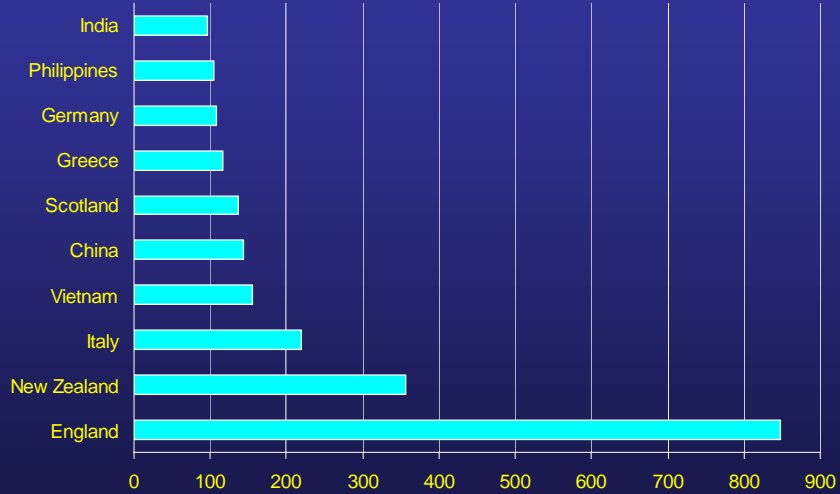
Australia and Migration

By 2001:

- Australia's population was derived from 284 birth countries by 2001
 - 240 language groups and 124 religious categories
- The top 6 ancestry groups were
 - English
 - Irish
 - Italian
 - German
 - Greek
 - Chinese
- Australia had 2,502,816 people born in non-English speaking countries (compared to 2,151,652 in 1991) – a 15% increase



Australian Migrant Population: Country of Birth ('000s)



Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs 2003

Australia and Migration

The fastest growing birth countries from 1996-2001

- Botswana
- Oman
- Kazakhstan
- Sierra Leone
- Sudan
- Georgia
- Afghanistan
- Somalia
- Nepal
- Bangladesh
- Iraq

Migrant groups with the least capacity in English were those speaking

- Vietnamese
- Cantonese
- Italian
- Greek
- Mandarin
- Arabic
- Spanish
- Korean
- Macedonian
- Turkish

Department of Immigration Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs 2003



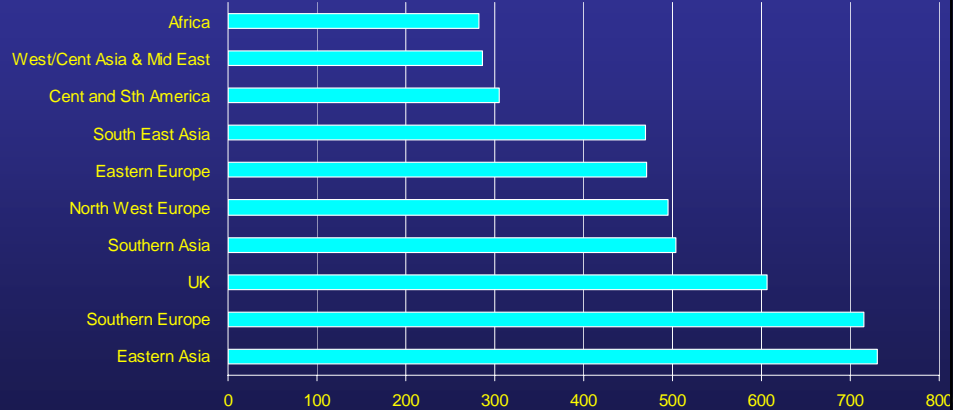
Canada and migration

- By 2001, a total population of 29,639,035
 - 18 per cent were overseas-born

Statistics Canada 2004



Canadian Migrant Population: Country of Birth ('000s)



Statistics Canada 2004

Canada and migration

- By 2001, a total population of 29,639,035
 - 18 per cent were overseas-born
- Provinces highly variable proportions of overseas-born
 - Ontario 27
 - British Columbia 26
 - Alberta 15
 - Quebec 10
 - Newfoundland 2
- Religions also diversifying. Rapid growth in
 - Muslim
 - Buddhist
 - Hindu
 - Sikh

Statistics Canada 2004



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Health care services

- NESB Australians are at risk of receiving inferior health care
- the period to 1988 in Australia dominated migrants' **access** to services
 - funding of interpreter and ethnic self-help initiatives
 - failure to address the nature of issues after a service had been accessed
 - little attempt to address the issue of improving the health status of immigrants, or recognise the social factors beyond ethnicity that disadvantaged them (Garrett & Lin 1990).
- in last decade, recognition of failure to train future health professionals in multicultural perspectives to demonstrate **relevance** and **culturally sensitivity**
 - failure to train regarded as 'institutionalised racism',
Health for a Multicultural Australia Conference in 1993



Developing transcultural training

- growing emphasis on the need for medical and nursing practitioners to develop appropriate skills sets to support transcultural practice
- Dentistry educators seem absent from this development
- little evidence be found of current dental science curriculum initiatives / research



Communication skills and culture

- Hawthorne found a stated preference among patients for interculturally competent nursing practitioners but also a 'trade off' between intercultural and technical competence
 - patients seem willing to sacrifice cultural homogeneity in the interests of better – technically more competent -nursing care
- conflicting cultural values can also exist inter-professionally between the different health care professionals providing advice and treatment to patients



Dental practice, culture and communication in migrant settings

- Limited literature on the need for cultural sensitivity in dental practice
- Kwan and Williams (1998) identify communication problems, anxiety and cultural beliefs, as barriers to Chinese migrants accessing dental care in the UK.
 - a clear need to raise cultural awareness among dental professionals as well as to help Chinese people's positive attitudes toward dentists and dental care.
 - dentists perceived language and mutual understanding as critical
 - only a minority identified consent as a key issue, suggesting dentists do not question dominant cultural assumptions
- Swedish dentists found most frequent problems identified with immigrant patients
 - language difficulties
 - poor knowledge of dentistry
 - difficulties in keeping treatment times
 - exaggerated expressions of pain



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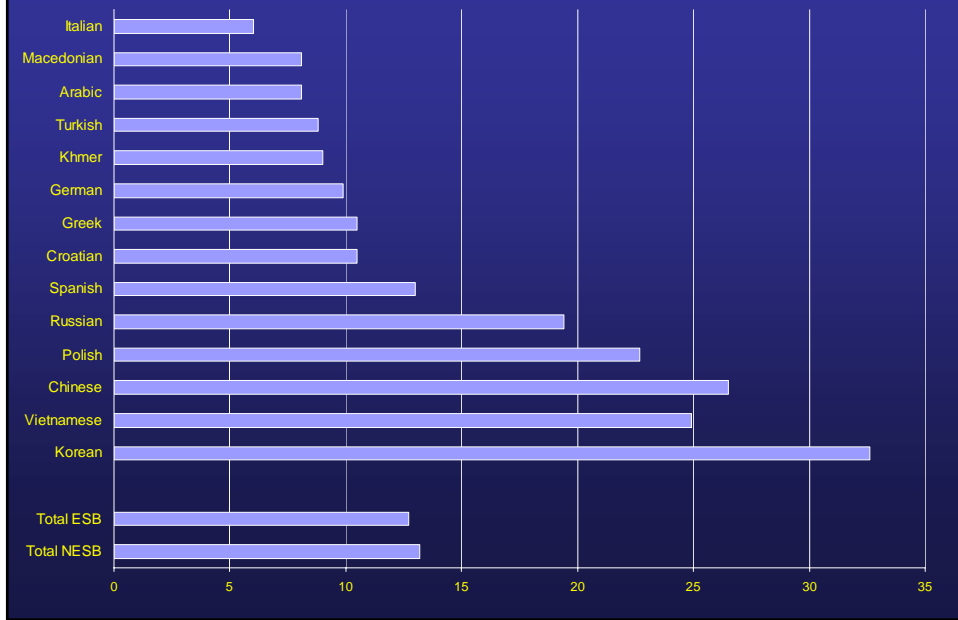


Australia

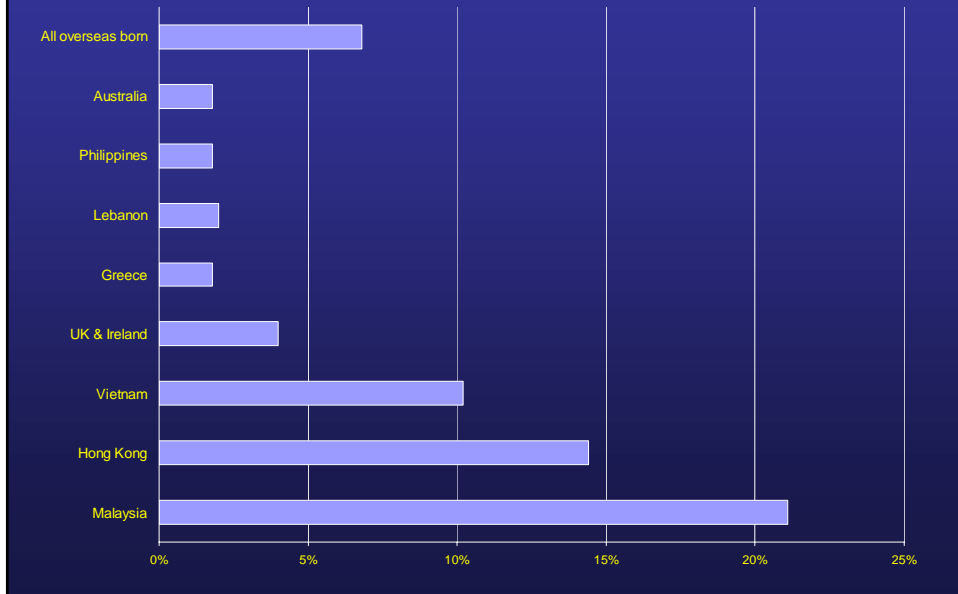
- disproportionate representation of migrant students in tertiary education
- access by (recently arrived) NESB students is well above the rates for the relevant age group for all institutions
 - all institutions show an above average retention of NESB students
 - in one case, 16% above that for all students' – in contrast to Aboriginal students who have 65% lower retention rates in a single year



Australian Tertiary Participation Rates by Language Group (1995)



Participation Rates of Permanent Resident U/G Medical Students in Australia by Country of Birth: 1993



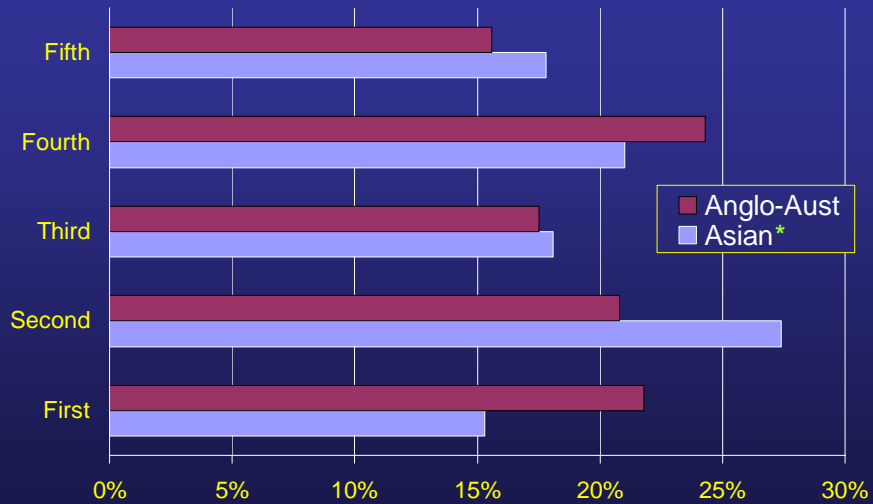
- Overseas-born dentists constituted 35 per cent of all dentists in Australia
- Dentist migration growing rapidly
 - 327 arrivals from 1991-1995
 - 741 from 1996 - 2001, primarily from the UK / Ireland followed by the Philippines and New Zealand



Undergraduate Enrolments at University of Melbourne in Medicine and Dental Science, by Enrolment Status and Key Source Countries (1996)

Student Status	Medicine	Dental Science
Australia-born	635	120
Migrants	393 (Malaysia, Hong Kong, Macau & Taiwan, Indo-China)	125 (Hong Kong, Macau & Taiwan, Indo-China, Malaysia)
International students	204 (Malaysia, Singapore, Sri Lanka)	18 (Singapore, Hong Kong, Macau & Taiwan, Malaysia)
Total students	1232	270

Ethnicity of Australian Dental Students by year



* 71 percent overseas born

U/G Dentistry

- Little dentistry specific data
- The range of dental science source countries growing extremely rapidly (Birrell & Hawthorne 1997).
- Individual eg's:
 - Marino data above
 - Value orientations of dental students from different ethnic backgrounds did not differ
 - Vietnamese 7 times over-represented in dentistry than the size of the population (Dobson, 1997)
 - 50 percent of the Melbourne dentistry student body first generation migrants (Hawthorne, 1997)
 - largest group in the UK dental schools is of Indian background
- 1994 - 1995 Sydney first year dental students
 - 1985 – 1995 huge increase in Asian born students
 - only one in three students spoke English as a first language
 - many students did not have English language skills needed
 - Kawamura et al found both Japan and Melbourne dental students needed an understanding of cultural differences needed
- No apparent match between student ethnicity and population ethnicity



Demography of dental science courses: Canada

- sustained growth in enrolment in the Canadian tertiary sector in the past 10 years. As in Australia, female students have been participating in record numbers
- largest field of enrolment growth was Health and Physical Education, followed by Nursing and Medicine.
- number of international students enrolled in Canadian tertiary courses grown rapidly recently
 - 52,600 students in 2000/1 (up 60% cf 1997/8).



Students demographics and culture in the dentistry curriculum

- In the UK between 1994-1997 greater proportion of students from lower social class backgrounds entered dentistry
- the largest group in the UK dental schools is from the Indian community



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