

Slang Data Provenance

1. Project Context

This data was collected as part of the project 'Metaphors and Identities in the Australian Vernacular' supported by the Australian Research Council (SR200200350).

The Chief Investigators for the project were:

- Professor Kate Burridge
- Dr Howard Manns
- Dr Simon Musgrave
- Dr Isabelle Burke
- Dylan Hughes
- Emeritus Professor Keith Allen

all attached to Monash University.

2. Ethics

Permission to collect data was given by the Monash University HREC, project reference 28289.

3. Timeline

Data was collected via a Qualtrics form. Several people associated with the project volunteered to trial the form; these trials occurred between 2021-07-06 and 2021-07-16. Data collection commenced on 2021-07-19 and ended on 2021-08-29. The survey was publicised via social media and also via team members' appearances and contacts with various ABC radio stations.

4. Survey format

Draft questionnaire for slang terms:

Our research project is looking at Australian slang, how it has changed over time and its importance for the Australian sense of identity. We would love to know about words or expression which you think of as being characteristically Australian and which you would consider to be slang. Please help us by contributing items in response to this questionnaire.

We are delighted with any contributions of words and expressions you consider as being characteristically Australian, including anonymous ones. However, if you are willing to be

contacted by us to ask for additional information about the words and expressions you have contributed here, please do provide an email address in the relevant place. We will not pass this information on to anyone else, and we will destroy the information at the conclusion of our project.

Contributor details:

Age: <18 (opens pop up menu for age; if under 13, survey ends).

18-30

31-40

41-60

>60

Prefer not to say¹

Gender: ☐ Woman

☐ Man

☐ Non-binary/gender diverse

☐ My gender is not listed, I identify as _____

☐ Prefer not to say

(gender options will be provided in checkboxes, rather than radio buttons)

Location: (postcode or placename?)

Did you grow up in a different place?

If YES, where did you grow up?

If you would be willing to answer further questions, please provide an email address:

Lexical information:

¹ Dr Musgrave made an error in constructing the online survey entering two age brackets as 30 - 40 and 40 - 60. Therefore it is not possible to know to which age bracket respondents aged 40 assigned themselves.

Please answer the following questions. Where possible, please give **examples** of the word/expression in use, and **where and when** you have heard the word/expression used.

Please feel free to add as many words/expressions as you like, as well as any additional comments about the word/expression.

What do you think is a typically Australian word or expression for...

1. Something very good?
2. Something very bad?
3. Someone who is stupid?
4. An attractive person of any gender?
5. An attractive female?
6. An attractive male?
7. An unattractive person?
8. Someone who is arrogant?
9. Nonsense?
10. Alcohol?
11. Being intoxicated?
12. Someone who does not do their fair share?
13. Any part of the body?
14. Lastly, what other words or expressions do you think of as being characteristically Australian?

Word or expression:

Meaning of word/expression:

Example of word/expression in use:

When and where have you heard this word/expression used?

Any further comments:

Would you like to submit another word or expression? (if Y, initiates the previous options for Q14 again, as many times as the participant would like).

5.Data processing

Data was downloaded from Qualtrics as a CSV. A research assistant did some cleaning and organisation of the data, but investigation of that version suggested that it was not a suitable basis for an archival version. The current version of the data is therefore based on the original spreadsheet.

In preparing this version, the LDaCA team has carried out the following operations:
A [Jupyter notebook](#) was developed which takes the original Qualtrics data, loads it as a dataframe, and produces two sets of outputs:

1. A folder with 14 CSV files - one for each of the slang prompts given to the participants, e.g. *Item01-VeryGood.csv*. The original data had all the responses to each of the prompts provided by a single participant as one row, which is unwieldy; therefore the data from the different prompts was split into these separate tables. Non-responses were removed, participant IDs added, and minor character encoding and formatting corrections applied. The only columns kept in these CSVs were those pertaining to the slang expressions:
 - Response ID
 - Do you know any typically Australian word or expression for [prompt]?
 - What is the word or expression?
 - What does this word or expression mean?
 - Can you provide an example of the word or expression in use?
 - When and where have you heard this word or expression being used?
 - Is there anything else you would like to tell us about this word or expression?
2. A de-identified version of the original survey data titled *Australian Slang v2_September 5, 2021_deidentified.csv*, where the following columns have been removed:
 - 3: IPAddress
 - 9: RecipientLastName
 - 10: RecipientFirstName
 - 11: RecipientEmail
 - 13: LocationLatitude
 - 14: LocationLongitude
 - 25: If you would be willing to answer further questions, please provide an email address.

The [Slang Survey Corpus Tool](#) was developed to create an [OCFL repository](#) of the collection using metadata collated in spreadsheet format. It also uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics [Postal Areas - 2021 - Shapefile](#) geomapping data to map the postcodes provided by the research participants within the collection.

Description:

This dataset consists of responses to an online survey which elicited information about Australian slang. Respondents were asked to provide slang expressions equivalent to a variety of prompts (e.g. 'Something very bad') along with additional information such as who they might expect to use the expression given. The data was collected as part of the project 'Metaphors and Identities in the Australian Vernacular' supported by the Australian Research Council (SR200200350).