Peerless just a mouse click away
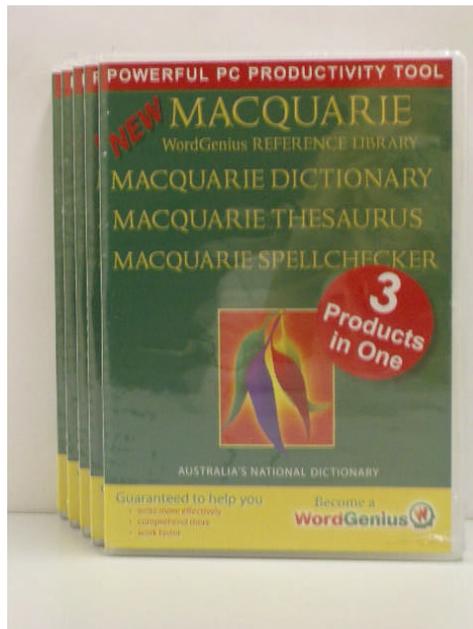
Welcome to the 21st century where the dictionary is always available, writes JANET HUGHES

S MS has seen written English take a beating, particularly in young age groups, to the despair of parents and teachers. The good news is Eurofield Information Solutions has released the Australian Macquarie dictionary as a computer program. The *Macquarie WordGenius Reference Library* consists of a dictionary, thesaurus and spellchecker, making it an aid for students, Scrabble players or anyone needing some help writing an email or report.

Macquarie WordGenius is produced by the Australian company Eurofield Information Solutions [EIS], which released Random House's Webster's Unabridged dictionary in the US. The Macquarie edition has more than 110,000 entries and 200,000 definitions.

By using eComPress electronic dictionary publishing technology to compress and index, the program occupies only 12Mb of disc space when installed. The eComPress technology reduces look-up time.

Write stuff ... The dictionary in a box

Installation is straightforward, requiring an eight-character username and the product licence key. The dictionary and thesaurus work with Windows 95 on, while the spellchecker works with Windows 2000 on.

The products are installed separately and have options for drag-and-drop desktop icons for the dictionary and thesaurus. Dragging a word from a document to the dictionary icon launches a window with the word and its definition. Words can be dragged from any Windows program, including PDFs, spreadsheets, word processing documents and more. The dictionary supports reverse look-up, boolean and wildcard searching. Users can hear how a word is spoken by selecting the text.

Unlike the thesaurus and dictionary, the spellchecker does not exist as a stand-alone program. The spellchecking program can be loaded as your default dictionary in *Microsoft Word,* replacing Microsoft's dictionary with Macquarie's more comprehensive version.

Macquarie WordGenius is available as a single user licence, multi-licence and site licences. A 30 day free trial version is available for download from their website.

Macquarie's electronic dictionary is easier to use than a conventional paper dictionary and with no need to leave your desk to check that elusive word, it's easy to see this ending up on many a family's Christmas list.

What > Macquarie WordGenius Electronic Dictionary
Price > $49.95
From > Eurofield Information Solutions, 02 9411 3711
Web > www.wordgenius.com.au