



Be worried, not amused at footage

WHEN footage of a US TV reporter delivering her Grammys report in apparent gobbledygook was posted on YouTube it went viral, prompting a rash of online jokes at her expense.

But the video should fuel concern, not laughs, a stroke expert says.

Serene Branson's garbled attempt to deliver a Grammy Awards report during the CBS2 news on Sunday has been watched the world over via the online video sharing site, where it has sparked numerous parody videos.

She also became the butt of an avalanche of jokes on blogs, Twitter and even news sites.

Professor Linda Worrall said the reporter showed the classic signs of having a "mini-stroke" on camera. The immediate reaction to it showed widespread ignorance about stroke, she said.

"Stroke is the third biggest killer in the western world and the most disabling disease in the western world," Prof Worrall said.

"What you're seeing is that it doesn't normally happen to young beautiful women on the TV, at the Grammys, in full camera.

Prof Worrall is Professor of Speech Pathology at the University of Queensland, and her research has focused on the area of communicative disorders and rehabilitation.