

1.

What is an Auslan Interpreter?

Meet with the interpreter beforehand

- Clarify unique vocabulary, technical terms, acronyms, jargon, seating arrangements, lighting and other needs.
- Provide interpreter with any written materials ahead of time.

Reserve seats for the Interpreter and Deaf participants

- Provide a clear view of the speaker and interpreter.
- Deaf participants may still choose to sit elsewhere.
- The interpreter needs to be positioned next to the speaker.

Interpreter should be in the consumer's sight line

- This allows Deaf participants to pick up visual cues and the expressions of the speaker.
- In small group discussions, consider using a circle or semi-circle seating

Be aware of lighting

- Provide good lighting so the interpreter can be seen.
- If lights will be turned off or dimmed, be sure the interpreter can still be seen clearly (use spotlight or small lamp to direct light toward the interpreter).

Talk directly to the Deaf person

- Maintain eye contact with the Deaf person.
- Avoid directing comments to the interpreter (i.e. "Tell him..." or "Ask her..."), respond directly to the Deaf person.

Speak naturally

- Speak at your normal pace. Interpreters will ask you to slow down or repeat if necessary.
- Interpreters listen for concepts and ideas, not just words, to render an accurate interpretation.

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CONVERSATION
ABOUT DEAF
AWARENESS

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2.

What is an Auslan Interpreter?

Avoid private conversations - everything will be interpreted

- ▶ Whatever the interpreter hears will be interpreted. Do not ask the interpreter to censor any portion of the conversation.
- ▶ Ask the Deaf directly if they are following the conversation. arrangement instead of a theatre style arrangement.

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One person should speak at a time

- ▶ An interpreter can only accommodate one speaker at a time. Encourage the group to follow this rule.
- ▶ If you are facilitating a group discussion, be aware that the interpreter will be several seconds behind. Pause before recognizing the next speaker to allow the interpreter to finish with the current speaker.

Avoid asking the interpreter for opinions or comments regarding the content of the

- ▶ Interpreters follow a code of ethics which requires impartiality and confidentiality with all assignment related information.
- ▶ Do not assume the interpreter has prior knowledge of the Deaf person or will be interpreting future appointments.

Provide a short break every hour

- ▶ Interpreting is mentally and physically taxing.
- ▶ If one interpreter is being utilised it is important to provide short breaks within the hour.
- ▶ Meeting or subject context is often dense or unfamiliar.
- ▶ Do not expect the interpreter to interpret during these breaks or to engage in dialogue with you.

ASLIA (Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association) recommends that the following strategies be used, to maximize the effectiveness of the communication exchange when working alongside a professional interpreter. Capital D "Deaf" has been used in this document to acknowledge the cultural use of Auslan within the community.