

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WORKING WITH AUSLAN INTERPRETERS

What is the role of an Auslan interpreter?

Auslan is Australian Sign Language, the language of the Australian Deaf Community. It is a distinct language, with its own grammar and syntax. An Auslan interpreter is someone who interprets in both directions between English and Auslan facilitating communication between two parties. They are impartial professionals who serve both parties equally and are bound by a strict Code of Ethics.

How can I prepare for a session with an Auslan interpreter?

- Brief the interpreter beforehand by sharing relevant materials, jargon, and any specialised language they may encounter
- Allow time for interpreters to familiarise themselves with the content before the session starts

What should I keep in mind during the session?

- Allow extra time for the deaf person to respond, as interpreting involves a slight delay.
- Ensure only one person speaks at a time, as interpreters cannot interpret multiple speakers simultaneously.
- Remember that Auslan is a distinct language with its own grammar and idioms; the interpreter will convey meaning rather than translating word-for-word.
- Be aware that humour often does not translate well due to cultural and linguistic differences.
- Avoid making side comments, as the interpreter is ethically required to interpret everything the deaf person would have understood if they could hear.

Special Considerations

Auslan interpreters generally work in the simultaneous mode. Due to the highly demanding cognitive nature of this task, they should be given short breaks after every 15-minute block to maintain accuracy and effectiveness. Multiple Auslan interpreters may be required in tandem when an appointment is longer than one hour.

How should I interact with the interpreter and the deaf person?

- Speak clearly at your normal pace and volume. The interpreter will let you know if adjustments are needed.
- Address the deaf person directly and maintain eye contact with them, not the interpreter.
- Allow interpreters to position themselves appropriately, typically next to the English speaker for visibility.



QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, feedback or compliments please contact us at de.enquiries@allgraduates.com.au or call us on 9605 3051