



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA (Chair), Mr Jonathan Davis MLA (Deputy
Chair), Ms Nicole Lawder MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into access to services
and information in Auslan

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I've lived and worked in the Canberra area for about 10 years. As a child I had some friends with who's parents were deaf and I learnt some basic Auslan. So in 2008 I undertook some further Auslan courses in Victoria – they were easy to access and ran often. I was able to practice Auslan at several venues (clubs and pubs) that had staff and patrons that used Auslan.

When I moved to Canberra about a decade ago I wanted to continue to learn Auslan, however, I took 4 years until a course was run in Canberra and then the only residential camp (part of the Cert 2) was run in Sydney, so I had to travel. I wasn't able to continue with the Auslan study as the course was only ever run during business hours. But now hasn't been run for sometime at all. This means that Canberra can't even grow the number of tutors or interpreters from within its own residents.

In the meantime I have continued to work in the justice sector and I am now a Disability Liaison Officer however, I have been unable to extend my Auslan abilities due to a lack of training options, and in my professional role there is a significant need for access to interpreters, both for general engagement, as well as for formal statements (please note I make this submission as a private citizen).

I would like to break the barrier of someone who needs to access the justice system so they don't need to worry about the communication/language barrier while also facing the challenge of accessing the justice system – But I can't without access to training, education and certification in Auslan.