



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

Submission Number: 26

Date Authorised for Publication: 6 September 2022

From: 
To: [LA Committee - ECI](#)
Subject: ACT Inquiry access to services and information in Auslan
Date: Friday, 15 July 2022 2:39:21 PM

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To whom it may concern,

Some suggestions for improving access to services and information in Auslan;

- An interpreting team within a Government department that operates for the Public Service.

This would look be a team with both NAATI qualified interpreters, and NAATI qualified or recognised practising Deaf interpreters.

They could be booked for Professional Development, seminars, client meetings, creating accessible information and resources, or anything that would require an interpreter. Having capacity to be contacted for impromptu interpreter services either in person or online.

Essentially acting as a hub for all interpreter needs across the public service.

- Setting up interpreter availability ahead of time and at regular sessions.

For example fortnightly Tuesday and Wednesdays at Centrelink from 12-5.

This would allow people that require interpreters to plan ahead without the stress of booking for a time that might not have availability for an interpreter.

It would also build relationships with Centrelink staff to create a more accessible environment.

Deaf Education.

A few thoughts for Auslan access in education.

There is no Deaf unit, or class for students in public schools in Canberra. They are all spread across the ACT, creating an isolating environment for the students.

A Deaf unit with access to Auslan and English education would be great.

ACT Education doesn't have early intervention and missing those vital stages of development with Deaf students. Not knowing that a student exists until they enrol in preschool, really impacts the deaf students education.

- Hospitals employing interpreters on site.

Emergency situations are terribly frightening for everyone and not having access to their first/only or preferred language increases anxiety and stress.

During times that the interpreter isn't with patients, they could work on resources or educating staff on appropriate communication.

This could look very similar to the interpreting team for the public services, if not the same team.

I am a CODA (Child of Deaf Adult) and a NAATI qualified Auslan Certified Provisional Interpreter. I work in ACT Education as a communication Support Assistant for the Hearing Support team.

Happy for further contact to discuss these points. My phone number is [REDACTED] and you can email me on this email.

Thank you for your time,

[REDACTED]