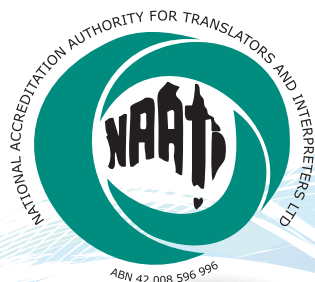


Improvements to NAATI Testing



The NAATI Board has approved the first stage in the Improvements to NAATI Testing Project (INT). The team contracted to deliver INT will be led by Australian researcher, Professor Sandra Hale from University of New South Wales (UNSW) and includes top international and local experts in different aspects of translation and interpreting.

The members of the panel are: co-investigators Dr Mira Kim, UNSW; Dr Ignacio Garcia, University of Western Sydney; Dr Jim Hlavac, Monash University, Dr Barry Turner and Miranda Lai of RMIT, Helen Slatyer from Macquarie University, together with Associate Professor Catherine Elder of the Language Testing Research Centre, University of Melbourne, Professor Claudia Angelelli, San Diego University, and Professor Gyde Hansen, Copenhagen School of Business. The panel will act as expert consultants on assessment and evaluation. Advisors to the Project are Associate Professor Jemina Napier, sign language from Macquarie University, Dr Michael Cooke, Indigenous interpreting and Marc Orlando, Monash University.

The task ahead is ambitious and wide-ranging. From the outset the scope has been broadly defined, encompassing standards, levels of accreditation, emerging technologies and assessment and training models. The work approved by the NAATI Board will be progressed in four stages over 12 months. Stage one, which has commenced, will review language, translator and interpreter testing literatures as well as review government language/interpreter policies. This will be followed by reviews of testing instruments, marking systems and accreditation/certification systems leading to development and definition of standards and initial consultations with stakeholders.

In early 2012 the focus will shift to working group discussions on different aspects of translator and interpreter accreditation and training with stakeholders in translating and interpreting including practitioners, service providers and educators. Around mid-year the team will develop recommendations on pathways to accreditation, types and levels of accreditation, pre-testing, testing instruments, marking systems, examiner training/qualifications, examiner reliability, content validity and implementation. The aim is to have recommendations for consultation and feedback by about July next year. It is expected the proposed conceptual overview for new NAATI standards, testing and assessment would be finalised by the end of 2012.

Much of the conceptual framework in which NAATI operates has not been revisited systematically for some time and INT will address that need. The work of the INT panel will inform the thinking of Members, the Board, stakeholders and staff as together we plan the next stage of NAATI's development. The emphasis throughout on discussions with stakeholders reflects our wish to ensure the widest possible input to this process. NAATI is delighted to have secured the services of such a distinguished, experienced and multi-talented panel and looks forward to working closely with them on this significant project.