The first INT Project Trainers Symposium was hosted on 3 February 2015 in Canberra. The aim of the INT Symposium was to bring together a range of experts from a key stakeholder group; educators who prepare translators and interpreters to practise in Australia. An array of discussions at the INT symposium included;

- the role of the 21st century practitioner and what training is necessary to function as a contemporary translator and/or interpreter,
- considering trends in accreditation/certification in Australia and internationally,
- how NAATI is implementing the proposals in INT Project Discussion Paper (November 2013),
- responsibilities, training needs and opportunities (Job Analysis process, Certification scheme design and Role of Approved Courses).

Professor Ludmila Stern (2015 Chair of Australian University Translation and Interpreting Forum (AUTIF) and NAATI Director) commenced discussions with questions about what should the 21st century practitioner know and be able to do, as well as what training leads to the acquisition of these competencies and skills. The present T&I industry is not only orientated to the Australian market but an international one with particular emphasis on translation practices and technology, community interpreting and legal and court interpreting, and business and conference interpreting. One of the aspects that has been under scrutiny is a national and international focus on T&I quality, accuracy, professionalism (particularly in the community and legal/court interpreting, where interpreters are challenged about decisions and choices). This concern about quality has led to a report commissioned by the EU Directorate General Interpretation aiming to mandate common standards of practice and recommending education/training of community interpreters. International Standards Organisation has recently produced a standard on Community Interpreting. Changes require the acquisition of new skills not only by the students but also trainers, since curricula are constantly updated and the best ways of testing are always under scrutiny. Pertinent questions include asking which new competencies should be tested. What training and competencies should examiners have to keep up with these developments?

John Beever (CEO) spoke about international standards of translating and interpreting certification, highlighting the INT as a means of working towards compliance with the International Standards Organisation (ISO 17024) which is about best practice for certification authorities like NAATI. NAATI’s policy on ISO 17024 is to, “participate more in ISO translating and interpreting standards work, so we know better where the world is heading and at the same time align NAATI operations with ISO principles.”
where that makes sense.” However, no decision has yet been made for NAATI to seek formal accreditation under ISO 17024. Robert Foote (Accreditation Manager, NAATI) presented the plans for INT implementation, which included the practical process and early critical elements, the Job Analysis and Scheme Design. This work is key because it forms the foundations for the future certification system and will inform decisions to be taken about types and levels of credentials and subsequent education and training needs for translators and interpreters.

The INT Symposium Chair and NAATI Director Mary Gurgone summarised the day’s proceedings saying, “the INT project is wider than just the test itself and is potentially the most ambitious renewal of the national accreditation system in Australia, since its creation 37 years ago. INT is now shorthand for an organisation change process touching most of NAATI’s operations.” She reaffirmed that INT Project has three stages; Phase 1- independent research resulting in the INT Report (Improvements to NAATI testing. Development of a conceptual overview for a new model for NAATI standards, testing and assessment) and NAATI’s response to the 17 recommendations listed in this report can be found in the November Discussion Paper 2013. NAATI has commenced work in Phase 2 of the INT Project, which focuses on the research and design of an improved certification system.

This INT Symposium is the first of several discussions which will help constitute and guide the implementation of changes to the NAATI certification system as a result of the INT Project.