

NAATI Disability Awareness for Interpreters

Module Overview and Learning Outcomes



Duration: 3 hours | **Recertification:** 20 PD points, Category 1.5

Cost: Free for NAATI certified practitioners on NAATILearn

Topic 1: What is Disability?

This topic explores how disability is defined and understood across different contexts. It introduces key models of disability such as the medical, social, and human rights models, and explains how these shape our responses to disability. It also unpacks the concept of intersectionality, highlighting how overlapping experiences (e.g. gender, culture, socio-economic status) influence how disability is experienced. In addition, it outlines national and international disability rights frameworks, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

- **Demonstrate an understanding of what disability is, including different models of disability.**
- **Evaluate the impact of intersectionality on the experiences of people with disability.**
- **Identify key legal protections and frameworks that support people with disability as well as the historical and social context of disability.**

Topic 2: Disability and communication

This topic outlines how disability can specifically affect communication, and examines the impact of language choices and the attitudes they reflect. Language shapes societal views of disability, and the words we use can reinforce or challenge stereotypes, marginalisation, and empowerment.

- **Clarify how various kinds of disabilities specifically affect expression, comprehension or both.**
- **Identify the implications and attitudes embedded in language choices when communicating about disability.**



Topic 3: Increasing awareness

This topic places disability within the context of Australian society, highlighting its prevalence and existing challenges for people from CALD backgrounds. Many people interact with individuals with disabilities—often without knowing. In addition, this topic frames the interactions between interpreters and people with disability within the ethical context, making the connection between the professional codes of conducts and the settings where disabilities are prevalent such as the NDIS.

- **Understand the broader context of disability in Australian society and in professional codes of conducts.**
- **Locate NDIS training and resources.**

Topic 4: Interpreting for people with disability

This topic showcases five interviewees who share their personal experiences: they identify challenges that may arise in disability-specific settings and share some strategies to address them. This topic will enhance your competence, professionalism and ethical judgement when working with people with disability as an interpreter.

- **Develop an understanding of the responsibilities and ethical considerations for interpreters working with people with disability.**
- **Identify challenges that may arise when interpreting in disability-specific settings and develop strategies to address them**

Resources

Gain familiarity with available resources and support networks for people with disabilities and their advocates. Learn about further training available and existing guidelines documents from professional organisations.

