

NAATI is the national standards & certifying authority for interpreters and translators in Australia.



NAATI sets and maintains high national standards for the translating and interpreting sector, and it is the only organisation to issue credentials or certification to interpreters and translators in Australia.

NAATI is a public, not-for-profit company that is jointly owned by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments.

What is a NAATI-certified interpreter?

NAATI certifies interpreters who have met the national standard expected of interpreters. Being certified means an interpreter has completed interpreter training and prerequisites and passed a test with NAATI. This test independently assesses their ability to interpret meaning accurately in both directions whilst maintaining the flow of conversation.

- NAATI-certified interpreters have been trained to follow the AUSIT code of ethics including:
- confidentiality
 - impartiality
 - accuracy
 - competence
 - professional boundaries
 - ongoing professional development; and
 - professional solidarity.



Interpreters deal with the spoken word or signs (such as Auslan). They interpret what each speaker is saying or signing into the other person's language.

All NAATI-certified interpreters recertify every three years if they wish to keep their credential. This demonstrates that they are actively maintaining their skills and knowledge.

Why is certification important?

NAATI-certified interpreters are professionals with a specific skillset. Yet untrained bilingual people are still often engaged in place of interpreters which can lead to serious consequences. This is particularly risky in high-stakes settings like health and legal services. Poor interpreting can result in significant economic and social costs, estimated to be as high as \$1 billion* annually in Australia.

NAATI certification is a quality assurance mechanism. Quality assurance in interpreting is essential to ensure accurate, reliable communication. Engaging a NAATI-certified interpreter benefits everyone – the client, the organisation and the community.

*Economic analysis of interpreting services 2023, Deloitte, Language Services Sustainability Forum (Home Affairs)



NAATI Certification for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Language Interpreters



Front cover: NAATI trainer Lavinia Heffernan (middle left) and AIS trainer Maria Corpus (right) working with Murrinh-Patha interpreters Jacinta Crocombe (left) and Beatrice Jacky (middle right) during a NAATI training workshop



Contact us

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Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language interpreting

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language interpreters and translators ensure language speakers can fully participate in Australian society and keep their languages alive. These services exist thanks to the tireless work of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander interpreters, translators, advocates, and language organisations. NAATI has participated in this work by certifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language interpreters and translators since 1981.

Indigenous Interpreting Project

The Indigenous Interpreting Project (IIP) was launched in 2012 with state and Commonwealth government partners. The project aims to:

- Support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language interpreters to prepare for NAATI certification
- Certify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language interpreters
- Create more training opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander language interpreters

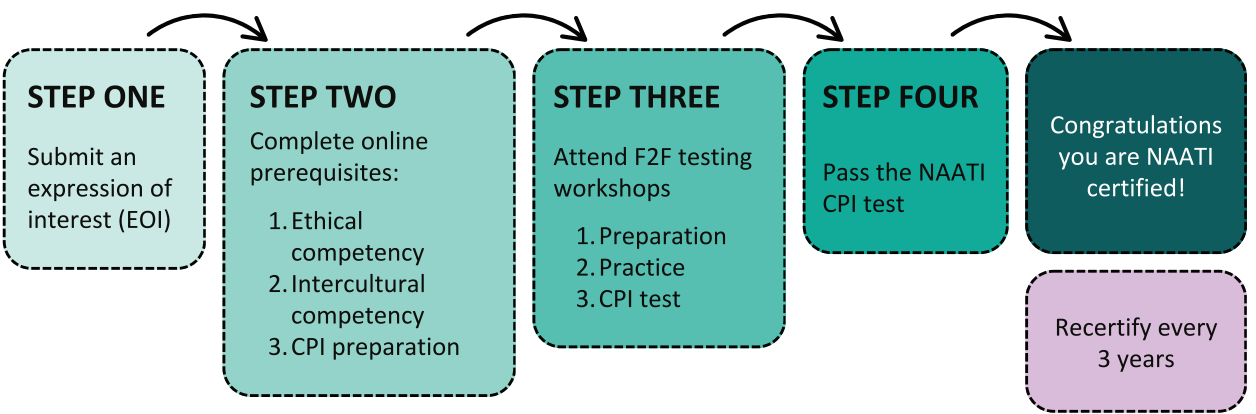


Locations of people who attended NAATI training under the Indigenous Interpreting Project 2025

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages

Getting certified

NAATI Certified Provisional Interpreter (CPI)



NAATI and AIS trainers support interpreter Lazarus Gallagher during a NAATI training workshop.

Step one: Expression of interest

Submit an EOI with details about English proficiency, language proficiency, interpreter training and interpreting work experience. NAATI will then let you know your next steps on the pathway to certification.

Step two: Prerequisites

Pass the NAATI Ethical Competency (EC) test and Intercultural Competency (IC) test and complete the CPI preparation course. To help you get ready for the EC and IC tests, you can do training with NAATI or elsewhere.

Step three: F2F workshops

Face-to-face (f2f) workshops include final training, a practice test with role-players, and the actual test. Interpreters will get information about the three test tasks the day before their test.

Step four: Pass the CPI test

The CPI test assesses your ability to provide quality, professional interpreting of non-specialised dialogues commonly encountered in daily life situations, using the consecutive interpreting mode.

The test consists of three live dialogue role-play tasks from different domains, to be interpreted in the consecutive mode. Two tasks are conducted face-to-face and one is via phone. Each task takes 10-12 minutes.

Recertification requirements

To support the ongoing professionalism of the industry, any translator or interpreter wishing to maintain a NAATI credential must recertify with NAATI every three years.

More information about recertification can be found on our website: bit.ly/NAATI-recertification

Why is recertification important?



Actively
maintaining skills
and knowledge



Support
the ongoing
professionalism
of the industry



Assures
the community that only
practising interpreters
hold current NAATI
credentials



Interpreters, mentors, trainers and support crew come together for a NAATI testing workshop in Alice Springs.