This booklet has been developed to assist applicants wishing to obtain accreditation in Auslan (Australian Sign Language) interpreting. It provides an introduction to the methods available to gain accreditation and the processes involved and will help you complete your application. You should read this booklet carefully.
WHO WE ARE

NAATI is a company that is jointly owned by the nine governments of Australia. We are governed by a Board of Directors, who are appointed by the owners.

Our mission, as outlined in the NAATI Constitution, is to set and maintain high national standards in translating and interpreting to enable the existence of a pool of accredited translators and interpreters responsive to the changing needs and demography of the Australian community.

NAATI services are available through any of our offices located across Australia.

WHAT WE DO

Some people get confused about what NAATI is and what we do. Essentially, NAATI is a standards organisation responsible for setting, maintaining and promoting high professional standards.

Our core focus is issuing accreditations for practitioners who wish to work as translators and interpreters in Australia.

Our aim is to be a respected and recognised global leader in the provision of certification services for translators and interpreters, providing quality services and being responsive to the individuals and organisations which benefit from NAATI’s services.

NAATI’s work enhances the translation and interpreting industry’s competitiveness and contributes to a community demand for everyone to be able to communicate and interact with each other.
NAATI accreditation in interpreting between Auslan (Australian Sign Language) and English is currently available at the following levels:

- Paraprofessional Interpreter
- Professional Interpreter
- Conference Interpreter

**DISTINCTION BETWEEN INTERPRETING AND TRANSLATING**

Because Auslan cannot be written, pure translation (which is defined by NAATI to be entirely in the written mode) is not a skill which is currently accredited by NAATI when dealing with signed languages. It is acknowledged that translation work is being done by interpreters between Auslan and English.

**COMPETENCE IN ENGLISH AND FUNCTIONAL HEARING OF APPLICANTS**

It is important that interpreters in Auslan have a high level of competence in English as well as in Auslan. In addition, interpreters need to be capable of adjusting to different registers of both languages. Applicants for accreditation as interpreters are expected to have functional hearing sufficient to enable them to function as interpreters in a variety of settings.

**DIALECT VARIATION IN AUSLAN**

Regional variation in Auslan exists across Australia. Although the Auslan examiner panel sets test materials nationally, examiners are aware of and will take into account the regional variations that exist when marking. The examiner panel also aims to minimise use of specific regional signs when creating the Auslan/English tests.

**ACCREDITATION IN AUSLAN**

Currently NAATI accreditation in Auslan/English interpreting may be obtained in three ways:

1. Passing a NAATI accreditation test; or
2. Successfully completing a NAATI approved course at a tertiary institution; or
3. Providing evidence of advanced standing in interpreting (Conference Interpreter level only).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What’s the application process if I...</th>
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<tr>
<td>pass a NAATI test?</td>
<td>pass a NAATI approved course?</td>
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<td>Form A - Accreditation by Testing</td>
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<td>Booklet A - Accreditation by Testing</td>
<td>Booklet B - Accreditation by Approved Australian Course</td>
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All application forms and information booklets are available from the resources section of the NAATI website.
**NAATI APPROVED COURSES**

NAATI approved courses are tertiary translation and interpreting qualifications (diploma-level or higher) conducted by individual VET and Higher Education institutions that are acknowledged by NAATI as teaching and assessing the skills and knowledge required by the profession.

Where a qualification at an educational institution holds NAATI approval, students who complete the qualification and assessment at the standard required by NAATI may apply for NAATI accreditation without further testing by NAATI.

NAATI approval acts as a **quality seal** that gives credibility to an institution's course as well as providing a valuable incentive to future students.

A number of TAFE and university courses in Auslan interpreting are available. For more information head to the approved courses section of the NAATI website at [www.naati.com.au](http://www.naati.com.au).

**OVERSEAS QUALIFICATION**

Auslan is sign language used in Australia and although it is related to other sign languages used in other parts of the world no NAATI accreditation will be granted on the basis of overseas qualifications in these other signed languages.

**ACCREDITATION TEST FORMATS**

Auslan/English interpreters should have an awareness of the effects and particular challenges of deafness, in the same way as interpreters in community languages are expected to be aware of the cultural background of the persons for whom they interpret. As well as cultural issues, knowledge of the ethics of interpreting is required. The test formats take into account the factors outlined above.

**PARAPROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER ACCREDITATION TESTING**

**Eligibility for testing**

To be eligible to sit for a NAATI Auslan/English Paraprofessional Interpreter test, applicants must have the following:

- Education equivalent to at least four years of Australian secondary education (year 10); **and**
- Proficiency in both languages.

In cases where a person’s education has been interrupted for any special reasons, these criteria may be waived, or alternative criteria substituted, at the discretion of NAATI.

**Test format**

Typically, the test takes approximately 40 minutes, including ten minutes unallocated time to allow for unforeseen delays.
Section 1: Social and cultural awareness (5 marks)

Four questions will be put to the applicant based on the social and cultural awareness of interpreting. The first two questions will be asked in English and should be answered in English. The next two questions are asked in Auslan and should be answered in Auslan.

The questions in this section are designed to assess the extent to which the applicants understand how social and cultural factors and/or socio-political issues affect situations where an interpreter would typically be used.

Section 2: Ethics of the profession (5 marks)

Four questions will be put to the applicant based on the ASLIA Code of Ethics. The first two questions will be asked in English and should be answered in English. The next two questions are asked in Auslan and should be answered in Auslan. The questions will be designed to elicit the applicant’s awareness of the ethics of the profession.

Section 3: Dialogue interpreting (2 x 45 = 90 marks)

There will be two dialogues of approximately 300 words each between an English speaker and an Auslan signer. The dialogues will be divided into suitable segments, which will not normally exceed 35 words each. Dialogue one will be interpreted in the consecutive mode and dialogue two will be interpreted in the simultaneous mode.

Pass mark

In order to pass this test and be eligible for accreditation as a Paraprofessional Interpreter, applicants must obtain:

a) At least 2.5 marks out of 5 for social and cultural awareness questions
b) At least 2.5 marks out of 5 for ethics of the profession questions
c) At least 63 marks out of 90 for both dialogues with a minimum of 29 marks in each dialogue
d) At least 70 marks out of 100 in total

Conduct of tests

It is not possible to simulate perfectly in a test the conditions under which an interpreter would normally work. Nevertheless, NAATI conducts its tests in a way that is fair and equitable to all applicants.

Accordingly, all interpreting tests are conducted from a master recording of the test which is played to the applicant in the presence of a supervisor only, and the applicant’s responses are recorded for later marking. Interpreting tests are therefore conducted individually.

Applicants should be aware that all Auslan testing is video recorded. The use of dictionaries and other reference aides is not permitted in Paraprofessional Interpreter tests.
PROFESSIONAL INTERPRETER ACCREDITATION TESTING

Eligibility for testing

To be eligible to sit for NAATI Auslan/English Professional Interpreter test, applicants must have:

- General education to degree or diploma level in any field; or
- Current NAATI accreditation as a Paraprofessional Interpreter in Auslan/English interpreting.

Test format

Typically, the test takes approximately 75 minutes.

Section 1: Community and legal interpreting

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tr>
<td>One interpreting dialogue</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two social and cultural awareness questions</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two ethics questions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One sight translation (related to the dialogue)</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>One Auslan to English monologue</td>
<td>15</td>
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Section 2: Professional and academic interpreting

<table>
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<th>Activity</th>
<th>Marks</th>
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<tr>
<td>One interpreting dialogue</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two social and cultural awareness questions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two ethics questions</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One English to Auslan monologue</td>
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The dialogues will include challenging subject matter that can be found in situations like police interviews, court cross-examinations, counselling session, medical appointments and academic discussions. The monologues will be focussed on topics such as judges’ court summations and university presentations rather than conference papers.

There is no specific amount of finger spelling that needs to be incorporated into the test. Finger spelling will be guided by the text itself and should flow naturally in your interpretation.

Pass mark

In order to pass this test and be eligible for accreditation as a Professional Interpreter, applicants must obtain:

a) At least 5 marks out of 10 for the social and cultural awareness questions
b) At least 5 marks out of 10 for the ethics of the profession questions
c) A total of at least 35 marks out of 50 for both dialogues
d) A total of at least 14 marks out of 20 for both sight translations
e) A total of at least 21 marks out of 30 for both consecutive passages
f) A total of at least 70 marks out of 100 for the interpreting part of the test (consecutive dialogues, sight translations and consecutive passages)
Conduct of tests

It is not possible to simulate perfectly in a test the conditions under which an interpreter would normally work. Nevertheless, NAATI conducts its tests in a way that is fair and equitable to all applicants.

Accordingly, all interpreting tests are conducted from a master recording of the test which is played to the applicant in the presence of a supervisor only, and the applicant’s responses are recorded for later marking. Interpreting tests are therefore conducted individually.

Applicants should be aware that all Auslan testing is video recorded. The use of dictionaries and other reference aids is not permitted in Professional Interpreter tests.

THE AUSTRALIAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETERS’ ASSOCIATION (ASLIA)

The Australian Sign Language Interpreters’ Association (ASLIA) is a non-profit body, and the national peak organisation representing the needs and interests of Auslan/English interpreters and Deaf (Relay) interpreters in Australia. The association is comprised of a national executive committee (ASLIA National), a representative council and branches in most states and territories. ASLIA has existed in various forms for around 20 years.

ASLIA’s vision is to seek to lead and promote best practice in sign language interpreting across Australia. To achieve this, ASLIA provides policies and a platform for the views of sign language interpreters throughout the nation on a variety of issues, including: training, on-going professional development, recruitment, working conditions, remuneration, and the provision of services within the sign language interpreting sector. ASLIA is also a member of the World Association of Sign Language Interpreters (WASLI) and assists in supporting sign language interpreting practitioners in developing countries within the Asia-Pacific region.

Individuals who gain NAATI Auslan/English accreditation are strongly encouraged to become ASLIA members, to take advantage of on-going professional development, support and advice. ASLIA membership is also open to other individuals with an interest in sign language interpreting, for example students of Auslan and/or Auslan/English interpreting, Deaf (Relay) interpreters, parents of deaf children, deaf consumers and organisations. For more information about ASLIA membership, visit the national ASLIA website (www.aslia.com.au) and select your state association for the relevant details.

THE ASLIA CODE OF CONDUCT

One obligation of holding NAATI accreditation is that practitioners must adhere to the professional code of ethics for the industry. For Auslan/English interpreters, this code is the ASLIA Code of Ethics. The core values of the ASLIA code are:

1. Professional accountability: Accepting responsibility for professional decisions and actions.
2. Professional competence: Committing to provide quality professional service throughout one's practice.
4. Integrity in professional relationships: Dealing honestly and fairly with participants and colleagues.
5. Integrity in business practices: Dealing honestly and ethically in all business practices.
Practitioners are to understand that each of these core values and accompanying sections are to be considered when making any ethical and professional decisions in their identity and capacity as an interpreter. These values are of equal weight and importance.

For more detailed information about each of these values and guidelines for applying them to professional practice, please refer to the ASLIA website at www.aslia.com.au.

**NAATI PRIVACY POLICY**

NAATI is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information. Personal information collected by NAATI, like other agencies operating in Australia, is protected by the Privacy Act 1988 and associated legislation.

NAATI adheres to the *Australian Privacy Principles* contained with the *Privacy Act 1988* which regulate how organisations may collect, use, disclose and store personal information and how individuals may access and correct personal information held about them.

NAATI’s *Privacy Policy* is intended to inform people who deal with NAATI, particularly applicants for NAATI products and services, about:

- The kind of personal information that NAATI may gather;
- How that information may be used;
- How that information may be shared or disclosed;
- The choices individuals have regarding NAATI’s use of their personal information; and
- How individuals may correct personal information held by NAATI about them.