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Deaf Australia/ASLIA  
National Forum on Auslan  
Interpreting

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Australian Federation of Deaf Societies  
Unfunded agency viewpoint

Contributions from DSNSW and VicDeaf



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# Supply

- Supply of interpreters is inadequate and does not meet current demand. This is caused by:
    - insufficient number of appropriate Auslan / Interpreter courses both at paraprofessional level and interpreter level
    - lack of trained Auslan teachers to teach in language learning courses
    - Difficulty of attracting people to interpreting profession due to sporadic work flow and lack of career path
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# Demand

- Demand for interpreters is continually growing due to improved:
    - recognition of Auslan
    - recognition of the rights of deaf people as enshrined in legislation
    - education achievements by Deaf people
    - access to services by Deaf people
    - increased employment opportunities by Deaf people
    - involvement in variety of community activities by Deaf people
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# Supply and Demand of Interpreters

- ↑ demand – 12% annual growth
- ↑ requests for Interpreter accredited
- Fulfillment of requests – 90-95%



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# Quality of Service

- No formal review program in practice
  - Some agencies allocate Paraprofessionals to assignments that require Interpreter accredited
  - Interpreters generally work alone and are not monitored
  - Some agencies do not interview
  - Lack of regulatory body
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# Work conditions

- Lack of consistency in work conditions (OH&S)
  - Cost of interpreting can be prohibitive
  - Remuneration varies between states and across agencies
  - Minimum booking fee can vary across agencies
  - Cancellation policies vary
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