

A snapshot of issues affecting Auslan/English interpreters



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The key issues

- a) Supply and demand of interpreters
- b) Quality of service
- c) Work conditions



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Supply and Demand

- **Number of working interpreters**
 - Attrition from the field
 - Attracting new practitioners
 - Training
- **Choice of preferred interpreter**
 - Competing preferences: consumer, client, agency & interpreter
- **Booking systems**
 - Multiple agencies with a limited pool of interpreters
- **Models of supply**
 - Welfare vs Professional
- **Attracting new practitioners**
 - “women’s work”, role as “helpers”, increasing gender balance



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Quality of service

- **Training**
 - Inconsistent, not mandatory, finite, incentives for further / on-going training?
- **Monitoring interpreters' work performance**
 - Mentoring / Traineeships / Induction
- **Grievance and complaints handling**
 - Revised ASLIA Code of Ethics
 - Registration Board



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Work conditions

- **Cost of interpreting**
 - Competing needs: agency, consumer, interpreter
- **Interpreter remuneration**
 - Fee structure, cost of living, skills / experience / training / education / level of accreditation, unregulated market!!
- **Minimum booking period**
 - 1 hr, 2 hrs, travel time
- **Interpreting teams**
 - Setting, selection, training, additional costs, OH&S, DRIs
- **Conditions for specific settings**
 - Education, legal, conference, Deafblind, relay

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