



ANC 2026 Geelong

Conference Program

ASLITA National Conference

Coast to Country: Creating
Ripples, Making Waves



9th - 11th Oct 2026
Nyaal Banyul Geelong
Convention and Event Centre



We come together to learn and inspire on the lands of
the Wadawurrung people of the Kulin nation

Fri 9th Oct - Pre-Conference Activities: Coast to Country



Time	Nyaal Banyul		Around Geelong	Deakin 1	Deakin 2		
11:00	Registration Collection Open						
11:30							
12:00			Dolphin Cruise	Interpreter Trainer Network Workshop	Interpreters in Educational Settings Workshop		
12:30							
1:00							
1:30							
2:00	First Nations + Allies Workshop						
2:30			Brewery Tour				
3:00		Deaf Interpreter Catch-Up					
3:30							
4:00							
4:30							
5:00	Welcome and AGM						
5:30							
6:00							
6:30							
7:00	Cocktail Hour						
7:30							
8:00	JW Flynn Oration						
8:30							

Sat 10th Oct - Day One: Creating Ripples

Registration	Time	Presenter/s		Presentation Title	
Plenary	8:30 - 9:30			Welcome to Country	
Plenary	9:30 - 9:50			Conference Opening	
Plenary	9:50 - 10:50	Jemina Napier		Keynote	
Morning Tea 10:50am - 11:20am				Poster Exhibiton	
		Stream A		Stream B	
Registration	Time	Presenter/s	Presentation Title	Presenter/s	Presentation Title
Concurrent	11:20 - 12:00	Phillip Richards	Bridging the Gap - A Pre-Session Interpreter Briefing Protocol	Danielle Ferndale, Christy Filipich, Janine Kirkuyyp & Steph Linder	East to West, North sea to Baltic Sea: Dipping our toes into international waters
Concurrent	12:05 - 12:45	Fiona Donaldson	Beyond Observable Behaviour: Examining the Ripples of Interpreter Decision-Making in Neurocognitive Assessment Literature	Rodney Adams	Wutha Muku First Nations - Our Land Our Stories
Lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm				Poster Exhibition	
Concurrent	1:45 - 2:25	Julieta Carroll & Dr Amie O'Shea	Educational Interpreting: A National Study Presented by ASLITA	Chelsea Turner	Building an In-House Auslan Interpreting Service Within Government
Concurrent	2:30 - 3:10	Robert Harrow & Megan Christophers	A Symbiotic Learning Partnership: Victorian College for the Deaf and Emerging Interpreters	Melinda Mindum	Gaze Management and Visual Access in Vocational Education Interpreting
Afternoon Tea 3:10pm - 3:40pm				Poster Exhibiton	
Concurrent	3:40 - 4:20	Mark Quinn & Duke Moolenaar	Beyond Signing: The Challenges and Techniques of Auslan - English Interpreting	Mac Gordon, Brett Milton, Khang Chiem & Niki Baras	Panel - The Stepping Stones to Making Waves: How Interpreters at the National Relay Service Worked Together to Get a Better Deal
Plenary	4:30 - 5:10	Panel TBC	Plenary Panel: Making Ripples: Interpreters Navigating Complex Settings Together.		
Plenary	5:10 - 5:30	Day One Reflections, Networking and Close			

Sun 11th Oct - Day Two: Making Waves

Registration	Time	Presenter/s		Presentation Title	
Plenary	9:30 - 10:00	Tiana Watene Panel TBC		Plenary Panel: Ripples of Awareness, Waves of Change - Building Culturally Safe Pathways in Auslan Interpreting	
Plenary	10:10 - 11:10	Jonathan Webb		Keynote	
Morning Tea 11:10am - 11:40am				Poster Exhibiton	
		Stream A		Stream B	
Registration	Time	Presenter/s	Presentation Title	Presenter/s	Presentation Title
Concurrent	11:40 - 12:20	Renee D'Offay	From Access to Belonging: Relational, Family-Centred Approaches to Auslan Learning in Regional Communities	Emily Pacheco	Sign language brokering among the hearing children of Deaf migrants (Comdas)
Concurrent	12:25 - 1:05	Marina Okamura	Interpreter Experiences in Mental Health Care for Deaf Patients: Roles, Challenges, and Implications for Practice	Dr Ayah Wehbe & Rebecca Cramp	Co-Designing an Inclusive Auslan Glossary for Islamic Concepts
Lunch 1:05pm - 2:05pm				Poster Exhibition	
Concurrent	2:05 - 2:45	Jody Barney	Stormy Weather: Kaleidoscope of First Nations Rights to Culturally Responsive Interpreting Using Cultural Sign Languages	Fatih Karakas, Sarah Strong, Jacob Wray, Ryan Gook & Nicole Clarke (Panel)	Building the Wave: Designing and Delivering an Auslan CPI Test Preparation Pilot
Concurrent	2:50 - 3:30	Madeleine Lock	Beyond Australia's Coastlines: A Pacific Case Study of Deaf Rights and Interpreter Access in the Solomon Islands	Jim Hlavac, Meredith Bartlett & Heather Lawson,	Designing and Delivering a Deafblind Interpreting Course: Perspectives of Trainers and Trainees
Afternoon Tea 3:30pm - 4:00pm				Poster Exhibition	
Plenary	4:00 - 4:50	Alana Wiekart, Maddison Kaputin, Tahlicia Osei-Poku, Paula Bun, Mark Quinn & Della Bampton		Closing Plenary Panel: Sustainability, Retention and the Future Interpreter Workforce	
Plenary	4:50 - 5:15	Conference Reflections, Acknowledgements and Closing Remarks			



Poster Exhibition

Available throughout the conference, delegates are encouraged to view posters and engage with presenters during catering breaks.

Poster Presentations:

- **Riaz Ahmed & Mark Quinn** — Mentoring and Coaching Across Borders: Supporting Our Colleagues Globally
- **Marina Okamura** — Mental Health Interpreting Research Project
- **Dr Ayah Wehbe** — Intersectional Experiences in Diverse Muslim Settings: What Interpreters Need to Know
- **VCD Model Team** — The VCD Model of A Symbiotic Learning Partnership:
 - Victorian College for the Deaf and Emerging Interpreters
 - ASLITA Educational Interpreting Project
- **Dani Fried** — Understanding and Leveraging Disability Inclusion Legislation
- **AIMS** - (Allied Interpreter Mentorship and Support). Alana Weikart
- **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** — Exploring the Impact of AI on Translation and Interpreting Practice
- **Translation** — Contemporary Issues and Innovations in Translation Practice

ANC2026 Logo Design

This years conference logo design was created by the talented Deaf Artist, Graphic Designer and Geelong local, **Mel Pritchard**.
Artist statement:

“The ANC2026 logo reflects the conference theme, ‘**Coast to Country : Creating Ripples, Making Waves**’ and celebrates the unique connection between Geelong’s coastal environment, urban landscape, and Wadawurrung Country.

The flowing line within the design represents the coastline of Geelong Bay, while the building elements symbolise the city and its growing community. The leaf motifs acknowledge the natural environment and the significance of Country, bringing together both urban and natural landscapes in a unified design.

The colour palette draws inspiration from Geelong’s coastal beaches, bay waters, and natural surroundings, while also recognising the heart of Geelong and the enduring connection to Wadawurrung Country. This logo represents connection, belonging, movement, and the shared journey from coast to country.” - Mel Pritchard



J.W. Flynn Oration



John W Flynn - J.W. Flynn Oration Compère

John began his life-long service to Deaf people as a Welfare Officer with the Adult Deaf & Dumb Society of NSW (now The Deaf Society of NSW) in 1950. He had no knowledge of Sign Language therefore lived in Gordon Davis House Stanmore, the Deaf Young people's Hostel to learn. In 1956, as there was no formal training for Welfare Workers with Deaf people in Australia, he travelled to Britain and obtained the Diploma of Deaf Welfare. In 1960 he was appointed Superintendent/Secretary of the South Australian Deaf Society. In 1967 he was back to NSW as Senior Executive Officer of the Adult Deaf Society there. In 1968 he was appointed to the new position of Executive Director and Secretary of the Adult Deaf Society of Victoria. He retired from that position in 1993 after 25 years. He was active in the Australian Association of Welfare Workers with the Deaf and the Australian Federation of Deaf Societies, being Secretary of the Federation on ten occasions. During that time he advocated for Sign Language Interpreter training and when the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) was established to accredit Interpreters for people for whom English was a second language, he persuaded the Authority to include Australian Sign language in their testing programme. John was appointed to the NAATI Board and wrote and conducted the first testing programme. He has been a strong friend of ASLIA Vic and ASLIA National in their early years, through practical office support and meeting facilities. In 1984 he wrote *No Longer by Gaslight* The First 100 Years of the Adult Deaf Society of Victoria, then in 2000 La Trobe University admitted him to the Degree of Master of Arts for researching *Some Aspects of the Development of Post School Organisations of and for Deaf People in Australia*. In May 1996 he delivered the first J.W.Flynn Oration in Hobart at the National Conferences. The Oration was named in recognition of John's pioneering work in the field of Auslan/English interpreting in Australia. Although retired from administering organisations for Deaf people, John still interprets in Auslan from time to time

Julie Judd - J.W. Flynn Orator 2026

Throughout Julie's career of over 40 years, she has defined herself as a staunch ally of the Deaf community, and a consistent advocate for not only the visibility and recognition of interpreting work, but also the provision of training and professional development. She has worked across a vast array of settings: grassroots, live theatre, media and emergency services, and has represented the country internationally at UN ESCAP events. She has achieved CCI level from NAATI, worked as a NAATI test examiner and a CCI test creator herself. She was part of the ASLIA VicTas executive committee as both VP and President, and was the Chair of the National Board 2016 – 2021.



Keynote Presenters



Jemina Napier

Born in the UK, Jemina is a sign language interpreter researcher, educator and practitioner. She has practiced as a sign language interpreter since 1989 and works between English and BSL, Auslan or International Sign, and occasionally ASL.

Jemina began her research career in Australia, migrating from London to do her PhD in Linguistics at Macquarie University, which led to the book *Linguistic Coping Strategies in Sign Language Interpreting* (2022/ 2016 2nd Ed.), along with the textbook she co-authored with Della Goswell and Rachel McKee (*Sign language interpreting: Theory & Practice*); both of which have become seminal readings in interpreter training programmes worldwide.

She stayed as an academic at Macquarie where she established the Postgraduate Diploma/ Masters programme in Auslan/English Interpreting, and then went on to

become Head of Translation & Interpreting and the Director of the Centre for Translation & Interpreting Research before relocating back to Edinburgh in the UK to take up the position of Chair and Professor of Intercultural Communication at Heriot-Watt University.

Also, while in Australia, Jemina served on the board of ASLIA, including President from 2007-2009; and was Co-Chair of the NAATI Auslan Panel. With over 150 publications, Jemina continues to conduct research on a range of topics related to mediated communication, primarily related to access to public services via interpreting and child language brokering in deaf-hearing families.

Her most recent series of projects have focused on the experiences of deaf women seeking support for reporting domestic abuse. Jemina has received recognition of her contribution to research and the sign language interpreting profession as a UK Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences, a Corresponding Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities, a Fellow of the Association of Sign Language Interpreters, and Honorary Life member of ASLITA.

As a dual citizen of the UK and Australia, the Auslan interpreting profession has a special place in Jemina's heart and she is delighted to have been invited to deliver a keynote at the 2026 ASLITA conference.

Jonathan Webb

Facilitator, writer, activist, educator, first began coaching and mentoring in the mid-90's. Raised in St. Louis, MO in the heart of Jennings and Ferguson, he has worked primarily with marginalized populations seeking liberation and autonomy. Consequently, and in order to work via liberatory ideology, Jonathan has engaged directly with individuals who hold exceptional privilege within our societal systems to unpack identity, power, privilege, and the ways in which they experience confusion and pain tied to unconsciously upholding oppressive systems. Moving from theory into applied practice, Jonathan utilizes dialogic practices. Of note, Jonathan works through an accomplice framework that supports individuals utilizing their gifts and talents in conjunction with their privilege to make the world a better place for all of us. Academically, he holds degrees in ASL/English Interpretation, Liberal Arts, Deaf Education, and Theology, with post-doc work in Clinical Psychology. Currently, he is working on an Ed.D. in Instructional Technology and Curriculum & Instruction. He has served at varying levels and in multiple capacities within non-profit organizations. Currently, Jonathan presides over YourVolution & Sign Enhancers Inc., serves as a consultant, interpreter, curriculum developer, and teaches at CSU-Northridge in Deaf Studies where he coordinates and leads the interpreter education program. Hobbies include ocean and beach time with family.



ANC2026 Presenters



Philip Richards

Title: Bridging the Gap - A Pre-Session Interpreter Briefing Protocol

Presentation language: English

Abstract: Mental health assessments for Deaf Auslan users rely heavily on interpreters, yet the absence of assessment-specific briefing protocols may compromise the accuracy and validity of psychological evaluations. This presentation introduces a four-phase Pre-Session Interpreter Briefing Protocol (PSIBP) to support interpreter preparedness, improve assessment quality, and enhance outcomes for Deaf clients.

Christy Filipich, Danielle Ferndale, Janine Kirkuyup & Steph Linder

Title: International Sign Teaching in European Contexts: Challenging Eurocentric Assumptions

Presentation language: Auslan

Abstract: This presentation reflects on experiences within the European Masters in International Sign Language Interpreting (EUMASLI), exploring the use of International Sign in multilingual learning and social contexts. Through Deaf and hearing perspectives, it examines how diverse sign language exposure challenges and reveals Eurocentric assumptions about International Sign.



Fiona Donaldson

Title: Beyond Observable Behaviour: Examining the Ripples of Interpreter Decision-Making in Neurocognitive Assessment Literature

Presentation language: English

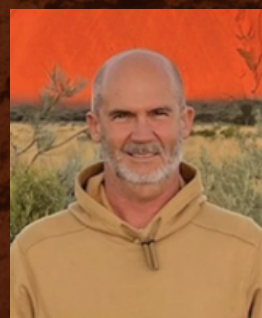
Abstract: This presentation explores how interpreters are represented in neurocognitive assessment literature within healthcare settings. It examines how these framings influence interpreting practice, training, and expectations, and highlights the interpreter's role as an active decision-maker. It considers implications for clinical communication, interdisciplinary collaboration, and interpreter involvement in diagnostic processes.

Rodney Adams

Title: Revitalising First Nations Sign Languages Through a Deaf-Led Indigenous Lens

Presentation language: Auslan

Abstract: This presentation argues for the revitalisation of First Nations sign languages within broader Indigenous language movements, grounded in Deaf-led Indigenous epistemologies. It challenges colonial, speech-centric frameworks and highlights how Deaf First Nations knowledge systems and multimodal communication can inform interpreting practice, supporting culturally responsive approaches and more inclusive engagement with Deaf communities.



ANC2026 Presenters



Dr Amie O'Shea & Julieta Carroll

Title: Australia's First National Study of Educational Interpreting Presentation

Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation shares findings from a national study on educational interpreting in Australia, led by Deakin University and ASLITA. It explores interpreter roles, Deaf student experiences, and training pathways, highlighting how research-informed insights can strengthen educational interpreting practice, support interpreters, and improve access for Deaf students in schools. .

Chelsea Turner

Title: Building sustainable interpreting careers within Government: The case for In-House services.

Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation explores the development of an in-house Auslan interpreting service within a government organisation and its impact on accessibility, inclusion, and workforce sustainability. Drawing on practical experience, it highlights lessons learned, the benefits for Deaf and hearing staff, and how organisations can create meaningful, long-term interpreting careers while fostering genuinely inclusive workplaces.



Robert Harrow & Megan Christophers

Title: A Symbiotic Learning Partnership: Victorian College for the Deaf and Emerging Interpreters

Presentation language: Auslan & English

Abstract: This presentation shares findings from a partnership between Victorian College for the Deaf and the RMIT Diploma of Interpreting program. It explores how collaboration between Deaf students, interpreter trainees, and Deaf interpreters strengthened student agency, interpreter readiness, and mutual understanding of effective communication access in education and community settings.

Melinda Mindum

Title: Gaze management and visual access in vocational education: What strategies are interpreters using?

Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation shares emerging findings from PhD research examining how interpreters navigate visual access and communication in vocational education settings. Highlighting practical strategies and collaboration between interpreters and educators, it aims to support more effective practice, foster professional discussion, and strengthen inclusion for Deaf students in complex, multimodal learning environments.



ANC2026 Presenters



Mark Quinn & Duke Moonlaraar

Title: Beyond Signing: The Challenges and Techniques of Auslan -English Interpreting

Presentation language: Auslan & English

Abstract: This practical workshop explores the complexities of Auslan to English interpreting, focusing on the cognitive, linguistic, and ethical skills required to accurately render signed language into spoken language. Participants will develop strategies for conveying tone, intent, and nuance, while enhancing fluency, neutrality, and responsiveness to diverse signing styles.

Mac Gordon, Brett Milton, Khang Chiem & Niki Baras

Title: The Stepping Stones to Making Waves: How interpreters at the National Relay Service worked together to get a better deal.

Presentation language: English

Abstract: In 2025, video relay interpreters delivering the National Relay Service negotiated the first collective workplace agreement for Auslan-English interpreters. This panel explores how interpreters built collective power, secured improved wages and conditions, overcame employer opposition, and what lessons their campaign offers for advocacy, workplace rights, and professional sustainability.



Dani Fried

Title: Understanding and Leveraging Disability Inclusion Legislation Poster

Poster Summary: Disability inclusion plans and advisory bodies provide a legislative framework that extends beyond anti-discrimination requirements, supporting accessibility for Deaf and deafblind people. They offer valuable leverage for improving interpreting practices, workplace health and safety, and organisational accountability, helping ensure better access to services, employment, and communication.

Tiana Watene

Title: Ripples of Awareness, Waves of Change: Building Culturally Safe Pathways in Auslan Interpreting

Presentation language: English and Auslan

Abstract: This panel explores the shortage of First Nations Auslan interpreters and the importance of culturally safe practice. Bringing together First Nations Deaf and interpreter voices alongside non-First Nations practitioners, it examines cultural responsiveness, professional learning, and the impact of practice gaps, highlighting ways interpreters can better support First Nations communities.



ANC2026 Presenters



Dr Ayah Wehbe & Rebecca Cramp

Title: Co-Designing an Inclusive Auslan Glossary for Islamic Concepts
Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation explores gaps in Auslan resources relating to religious and intersectional diversity, particularly within Deaf Muslim communities. It outlines a co-designed project developing a glossary of Islamic concepts through community consultation and collaboration with interpreters and scholars, highlighting implications for interpreting practice, inclusion, and culturally responsive Auslan development.

Emily Pacheco

Title: Sign language brokering among the hearing children of Deaf migrants (Comdas)
Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation introduces the term Comda (child of migrant Deaf adults) and explores sign language brokering in multilingual Deaf-hearing families. Drawing on a pilot Master of Research study, it examines how multilingualism shapes informal interpreting and outlines PhD research into Comdas' skills, experiences, and support needs.



Marina Okamura

Title: Interpreter Experiences in Mental Health Care for Deaf Patients: Roles, Challenges, and Implications for Practice
Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation explores Auslan-English and Deaf interpreters' experiences in adult mental health settings in Australia. It examines ethical, emotional, and practical challenges, highlighting role complexity, trust, and systemic barriers. It emphasises the need for targeted training and support, and the interpreter's role in strengthening therapeutic communication and access to mental health care.

Renee D'Offay

Title: From Access to Belonging: Relational, Family-Centred Approaches to Auslan Learning in Regional Communities
Presentation language: Auslan and English

Abstract: This presentation explores how family-centred, relational approaches to Auslan learning can foster belonging, identity development, and inclusion for deaf and hard of hearing children. It highlights the role of Deaf and hearing interpreters as collaborators in supporting families, strengthening communication access, and contributing to inclusive, community-based language development.



ANC2026 Presenters



Jody Barney

Title: Stormy Weather: Kaleidoscope of First Nations Rights to Culturally Responsive Interpreting Using Cultural Sign Languages
Presentation language: Auslan

Abstract: This workshop explores First Nations rights and culturally responsive interpreting in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural sign languages. It highlights cultural authority, linguistic sovereignty, and ethical practice, arguing that responsive interpreting is essential to recognising, respecting, and preserving the unique sign languages and knowledge systems of First Nations communities.

Fatih Karakas, Sarah Strong, Jacob Wray, Ryan Gook & Nicole Clarke

Title: Building the Wave: Designing and Delivering an Auslan CPI Test Preparation Pilot
Presentation language: English

Abstract: This panel brings together NAATI, interpreter educators, and industry partners to share the design and early insights of the Auslan CPI Test Preparation Pilot Program. We explore how collaborative training, assessment preparation, and industry engagement create stronger pathways to certification and a more connected, test-ready interpreting workforce.



Madeleine Lock

Title: Beyond Australia's Coastlines: A Pacific Case Study of Deaf Rights and Interpreter Access in the Solomon Islands
Presentation language: English

Abstract: This presentation examines Deaf communities and interpreter access in the Solomon Islands within the wider Pasifika "Auslanic" language family. It explores human rights, sociolinguistic profiles, and gaps in interpreter training, highlighting how Australian interpreters can act as allies to strengthen regional capacity, ethical practice, and access for Deaf communities.

ANC2026 Presenters



Jim Hlavac, Meredith Bartlett & Heather Lawson

Title: Designing and delivering a deafblind interpreting course: perspectives of trainers and trainees

Presentation language: Auslan and English

Abstract: This presentation reports on the development of a 40-hour deafblind interpreting course co-designed with deafblind trainers. It explores interpreter skills, training design, and reflective practice across complex interpreting constellations, highlighting the role of



experiential learning, haptic communication, and guided interaction in strengthening specialist interpreting practice and professional competency in deafblind contexts.



Alana Wiekart

Title: Why We Stay: What It Really Takes to Build a Sustainable Interpreting Career

Presentation language: Auslan

Abstract: “Why We Stay” explores what it takes to build a sustainable interpreting career and retain a strong workforce for Deaf community access. Through a panel of experienced interpreters, it examines career longevity, wellbeing, and the Ideal Life Cycle of an Interpreter, highlighting how sustainable practice strengthens interpreter retention and service continuity.

Panelists: Maddison Kaputin, Tahlicia Osei-Poku, Paula Bun, Mark Quinn & Della Bampton

Riaz Ahmend

Title: Mentoring & Coaching across borders, supporting our colleagues globally.
Poster

Poster Summary: This presentation explores mentoring and coaching across borders, drawing on practical experience supporting interpreters globally. It examines the opportunities and challenges of international mentoring, strategies for building professional relationships, and how collaborative support can strengthen interpreting practice, professional development, and access for Deaf communities worldwide.

