



Position Statement on Media Interviews of Interpreters

The Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA) is a not-for-profit body and is the national peak organisation representing the needs and interests of Auslan-English interpreters and Deaf Interpreters in Australia.

Interpreters working in the media are employed to deliver linguistic services that enable information presented by English speaking presenters to be broadcast to community members who are Auslan users. The provision of this service ensures Deaf people, alongside other community members are able to effectively activate their citizenship. Auslan-English interpreters and Deaf interpreters working in the media are highly visible and therefore are of interest to the wider community and media outlets.

Auslan-English interpreters and Deaf interpreters represent their fellow interpreting practitioners and the interpreting profession that aims to always work in partnership with Deaf people. In line with the adage 'nothing about us, without us', it is the position of ASLIA that Deaf people should always be included in media interviews that pertain to their language and lived experiences.

Recognising the privileged position interpreter practitioners hold working in the media context, it is the position of ASLIA that interpreters should only accept media interviews if it is in cooperation with the relevant state or national Deaf advocacy body, their industry representative body ASLIA and their employer. ASLIA recommend that interpreting booking agencies and individual interpreters who are approached for media interviews consider the following:

- [The ASLIA Code of Ethics.](#)
- What is the purpose of the media interview, and who benefits?
- Who is best placed to respond to the interview questions?

- How to demonstrate cultural respect of the Deaf community and be an ally to the Deaf community?
- Will the interview be conducted alongside and together with Deaf people who have the lived experience of utilising interpreters?
- Do they hold the credentials to represent the industry appropriately including being a member of the professional organisation of interpreters in Australia (ASLIA)?
- Will interviews that are shown on broadcast media or social media be made accessible by captioning and interpreting?

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