

Western Australian Language Services Policy 2020

Qualifications and credentials

Western Australian public sector agencies must ensure that the interpreters and translators engaged are tertiary qualified and/or National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) credentialed.

Tertiary qualifications

The **Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF)** is the national policy for regulated qualifications in Australian education and training. The AQF encompasses higher education, vocational education and training (VET), and schools.

An AQF qualification is the result of an accredited complete program of learning that leads to a formal qualification. A qualification certifies the knowledge, skills and learning outcomes of the graduate obtained through study, training, work and life experiences.

The AQF covers qualification levels and types from a Level 1 – Certificate I to a Level 10 – Doctoral Degree.

Interpreter and translator qualifications may be obtained by successfully completing degree studies at a university, such as a Master of, or Graduate Diploma of Translation Studies (Professional Translator/Certified Translator), or a VET course, such as a Diploma or Advanced Diploma in Interpreting, at TAFE colleges or other Registered Training Organisations. VET qualifications are awarded by training providers in recognition of the successful completion of an occupational or work-related knowledge and skills-based educational program.

For information on current courses, training providers, and to access the National Register of VET visit <https://training.gov.au/>.

▣ **The pre-2007 NAATI Accreditation credentials remain valid for practitioners who chose not to transition into the current NAATI credential system.**

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) credentials

NAATI is a standards organisation responsible for setting, maintaining and promoting high professional standards in the interpreting and translating sector.

Its core business is issuing credentials for practitioners who wish to work as interpreters or translators in Australia.

Since 2018, the NAATI credential system has included two categories for both interpreters and translators:

- NAATI Certified
- Recognised Practising.

The credentials reflect current industry standards and the ongoing professionalisation of the interpreting and translating sector.

NAATI's credential system is designed to evaluate whether an individual is competent to practise as an interpreter and/or translator as defined in Tables 1 and 2. It does this by setting minimum standards of performance across several areas of competency.

Individuals who demonstrate that they meet these standards are awarded NAATI credentials. These credentials are not formal qualifications, but rather performance indicators permitting interpreters and translators to quickly and easily demonstrate their abilities to employers.

Interpreting—credentials

Certified Conference Interpreter

Practitioners with this level of competence handle complex, technical and sophisticated interpreting, in both consecutive and simultaneous modes, in line with recognised international practice. Certified conference interpreters operate in diverse situations, including at conferences, high-level negotiations and court proceedings and may choose to specialise in a specific area(s).

Certified Specialist Interpreter (health or legal)

Practitioners with this level of competence handle complex, specialised messages/dialogues in a health/legal field, in both consecutive and simultaneous modes; understand in detail how culture and language interact in a health/legal setting; identify significant and nuanced culturally-specific information; know topics and relevant current events at an advanced level; and may interpret for a specialist audience.

Certified Interpreter

Certified interpreters transfer complex, non-specialised messages/dialogues in a wide range of complex situations/contexts; appropriately use complex but non-specialised language and commonly and uncommonly used expressions. They can work in both consecutive or simultaneous modes and are capable of interpreting across a wide range of semi-specialised situations, including telephone and video interpreting.

Certified Provisional Interpreter

This represents a level of competence in interpreting for general conversations. Certified provisional interpreters generally transfer non-complex, non-specialised messages/dialogues in a variety of non-complex situations/contexts. They

can use basic technology required for interpreting processes, for example telephone interpreting.

Recognised Practising Interpreter

Recognised practising interpreters comprehend and produce spoken English or Auslan (for Deaf interpreters) in a variety of non-complex situations/contexts, appropriately using non-complex and non-specialised language and commonly used expressions. They understand how culture and language interact, can identify significant culturally-specific information in spoken or signed language and can apply this to an interpreting task. In the absence of interpreter certification for a language, recognised practising interpreters may be asked to interpret in the same types of situations as certified interpreters.

Auslan Interpreters

The **Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA)** strongly recommends that practitioners should complete a tertiary interpreter training course as the most suitable pathway to obtaining NAATI credentials. This learning pathway not only provides the practitioner with a formal qualification, for example, Diploma of Interpreting [Auslan], but also better equips the interpreter to undertake the complex task of language transfer.

Table 1: NAATI interpreter credentials

Certified Conference Interpreter	These credentials are typically available between English and a LOTE (Language other than English) for which NAATI tests and assesses all significant competencies directly and objectively. Commensurate with the level of credential, interpreters work in certain typical settings, situations and interpreting modes.
Certified Specialist Interpreter (Health or Legal)	
Certified Interpreter	
Certified Provisional Interpreter	
Recognised Practising Interpreter	Recognised practising is available between English and a LOTE for which NAATI currently does not offer credential testing, for example for emerging or low demand languages. NAATI directly assesses language competency (English or Auslan), intercultural competency and ethical competency, but is only able to indirectly confirm other competencies through evidence of work experience. In the absence of interpreters with certification for a language, recognised practising interpreters may be asked to interpret in the same settings, situations and interpreting modes as certified interpreters.

Translation—credentials

Certified Advanced Translator

This is the highest level of NAATI translating certification. Practitioners with this level of certification transfer highly complex, specialised texts across a variety of document types in specialised fields, appropriately using specialised and complex language including technical expressions and jargon, and sophisticated translations in line with recognised international practice. Certified advanced translators operate in diverse situations and may choose to specialise in specific area(s) including translating technical manuals and research papers, and providing translations for conferences, high-level negotiations and court proceedings.

Certified Translator

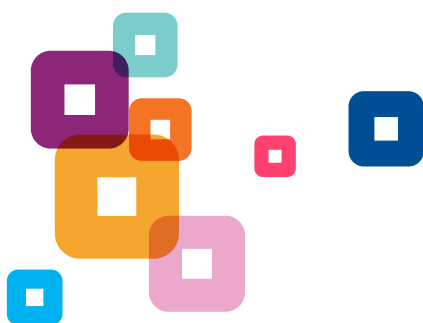
Certified translators at this level transfer complex, non-specialised texts across a wide range of text types including, but not limited to, personal documents, contracts, wills, subjects involving documents with specialised content, websites, brochures, manuals and product information.

Recognised Practising Translator

Recognised practising translators comprehend and produce non-complex texts in English across a variety of text types, appropriately using non-specialised language and commonly used expressions. In the absence of translator certification for a language, recognised practising translators may be asked to translate the same document types as certified translators. The experience of a recognised practising translator has been indirectly confirmed by NAATI through work references.

Table 2: NAATI translator credentials

Certified Advanced Translator	These credentials are typically available between English and a LOTE (Language other than English) for which NAATI tests and assesses all significant competencies directly and objectively. Commensurate with the level of credentials, translators work with documents from certain typical settings and types.
Certified Translator	
Recognised Practising Translator	Recognised practising is available between English and a LOTE for which NAATI currently does not offer credentials testing, for example for emerging or low demand languages. NAATI directly assesses Language Competency (English), Intercultural Competency and Ethical Competency, but is only able to indirectly confirm other competencies through evidence of work experience. In the absence of translators with certification for a language, recognised practising translators may be asked to translate documents from the same settings and of the same types as credentialed translators.



- Matching an appropriately skilled interpreter or translator to the situation is a vital part of your agency's quality control and assurance processes.

Contacts

National

National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI)

National Office
16/2 King Street, Deakin ACT 2600
Tel: 02 6260 3035

WA Office
Unit 3, Level 2, 50 Oxford Close, West Leederville
WA 6007

Tel: 08 9380 6330

Email: info@naati.com.au

Web: <https://www.naati.com.au/>

The Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc (AUSIT)

PO Box 1757, Collingwood VICTORIA 3066
Tel: 1800 284 181

Web: <https://ausit.org>

WA Office

Email: wa@ausit.org

Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA)

National Office
C/o- Julie Judd, Chairperson
PO Box 1300, Parramatta NSW 2124
Tel: 0407 568 869

Web: <https://aslia.com.au/>

WA Office

Web: <https://aslia.com.au/about-us/state-associations/wa/>

Western Australia

Access Plus WA Deaf (formerly known as the WA Deaf Society)

34 Dodd Street, Wembley WA 6014
Tel: 08 9441 2677

Email: enquiry@accessplus.org.au

Web: <https://accessplus.org.au/>

Independent Practising Interpreters Association (IPIA)

25 Monk Street, South Perth WA 6151

Tel: 08 6142 1024

Email: sbcm Monk@ozemail.com.au

Web: <https://ipiawa.wordpress.com/>

Professionals Australia (WA) [Union]

Suit 1, 12-14 Thelma Street, West Perth WA 6005
Tel: 1300 273 762

Web: <http://www.professionalsaustralia.org.au>

Western Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (WAITI)

PO Box 663, Subiaco WA 6904
Tel: 0422 375 396

Web: <https://waiti.org.au/>

Further reading

Office of Multicultural Interests

- Western Australian Language Services Policy 2020 and Guidelines

