

## Health Professionals

# WHY SHOULD I BOOK AN AUSLAN INTERPRETER?

In a medical setting, providing accurate and accessible information is not only essential to diagnosis and treatment, it is also a professional obligation.

### Without an interpreter, you risk:

- Not obtaining a full medical history, including current medications
- The patient not understanding their medical condition and the proposed treatment plan
- The patient not taking medication as prescribed due to communication issues.

### Deaf people communicate in a variety of ways, including:

- Australian Sign Language (Auslan)
- Another sign language or signed system
- A combination of lip reading, speech and signs
- Lip reading and speech

You cannot be expected to be able to assess each deaf person's communication; you need a communication expert to do that – you need an interpreter.

## Myths about communicating with deaf people:



### MYTH #1: LIP READING IS EASY

Lip reading actually requires a great deal of concentration, which can be compromised when someone is stressed, vulnerable or injured.



### MYTH #2: I CAN JUST WRITE TO THE PERSON.

For many Deaf people, their first language is not English but Auslan, a language with its own syntax, style and delivery. Written English carries with it a high risk of misunderstanding.



### MYTH #3: EVERYTHING CAN BE LIP READ

Only about 30% of English sounds occur on the lips. Other sounds occur, unseen, in the mouth and the back of the throat.



### MYTH #4: IF A DEAF PERSON SPEAKS AND/OR WEARS HEARING AIDS, THEN THEY CAN HEAR SPEECH.

This is not true. Often hearing aids only provide limited access to environmental sounds such as a car or plane and only give limited access to speech. Just because a deaf person can vocalise, does not mean they can hear what you say.

## BOOK AN INTERPRETER

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