



WHAT IS AUSLAN DAY?

Auslan Day celebrates the rich history, culture, community and language of the Australian Deaf community by honouring the date of first publication of the Auslan dictionary.

Professor Trevor Johnson (sign name: TJ) is a hearing coda (child of a deaf adult) from a large Deaf family. Through his involvement in the deaf community, he began to research the linguistics of Australian Sign Language. In 1989, he received his PhD from the University of Sydney. Auslan is a combination of the words “Australian” and “Sign Language”. Trevor published the first Australian Sign Language Dictionary on the 13th of April 1989.





Why do we celebrate Auslan Day?

We celebrate Auslan Day to spread awareness of the rich history and culture of the Australian Deaf community and their beautiful language Auslan.

How was Auslan Day established?

Deaf Australia is the peak Deaf-led advocacy and information organisation in Australia. They represent all Deaf, deafblind, hard-of-hearing people and others who use Auslan as their language of preference.

They are passionate about advocating for Auslan and the Deaf community to be recognised throughout Australia. As part of this continued advocacy, they established Auslan Day to honour the date of the publication of the first Auslan dictionary.

How to celebrate?

Auslan Day is a celebration for everyone! Regardless of whether you are in the Deaf community or not, we encourage everyone to celebrate. You can celebrate in many ways such as:

- Learn some Auslan signs
- Watch Deaf people's TikTok, YouTube and Instagram videos; or follow a Deaf Twitter account
- Watch Auslan storybooks online
- Buy resources from Auslan Shop: deafaustralia.org.au/auslan-shop

