

## MAY UPDATE

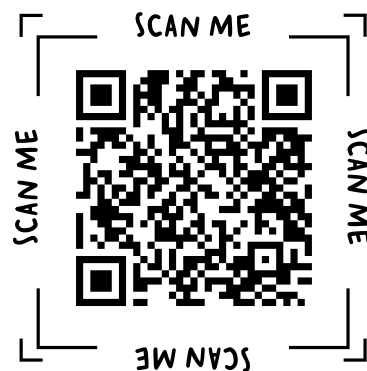
In this edition, we celebrate Interpreter Appreciation Day, along with exciting wrap-ups from Auslan Day and CBYC 2026.

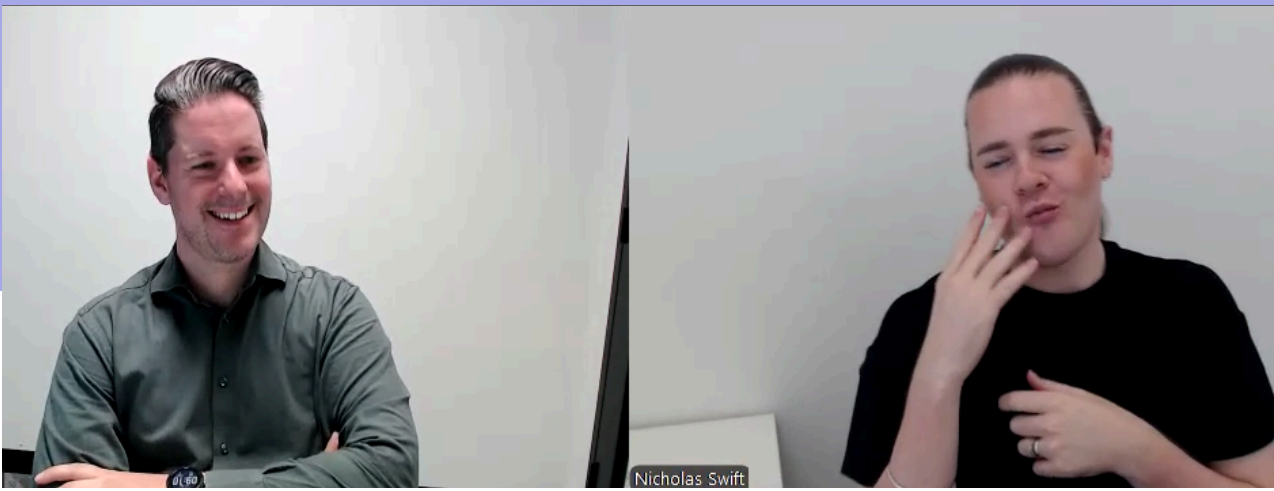
If you're keen to keep learning, explore our open Auslan courses. You'll also find updates on Signed Storytime, Deaf Connect events across New South Wales this May, LEAP Term 2, and ways you can support the campaign to save Auslan90.

Let's celebrate the happenings of our incredible community!

Scan the QR code here to view our stories and read past versions of the Deaf Herald.

[www.deafconnect.org.au](http://www.deafconnect.org.au)





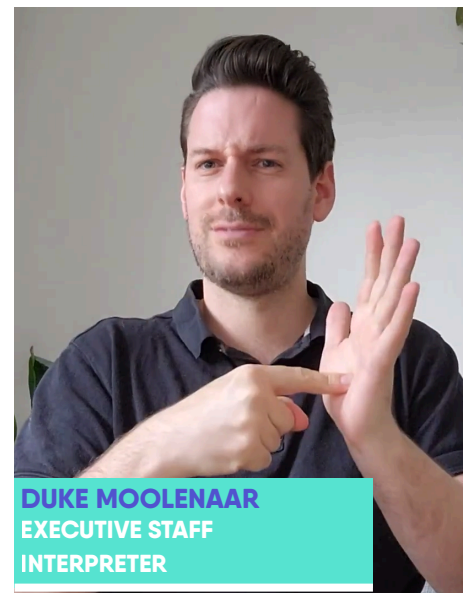
## ACHIEVING THE CONFERENCE LEVEL INTERPRETER CERTIFICATION (CCI) | DUKE MOOLENAAR

As part of Interpreter Appreciation Day, we're delighted to share a special interview with Duke Moolenaar, who has recently achieved NAATI Certified Conference Interpreter recognition—a significant milestone and testament to their expertise.

We spoke with Duke about what this achievement means to them, the journey and challenges that shaped their career, and what lies ahead for both them and the profession. After a ten-week wait for results, receiving Conference Level (Level 4) certification brought a deep sense of pride and validation, recognising years of dedication, skill development, and commitment to interpreting.

We discussed the demands of conference-level interpreting and followed Duke's progression from entry-level work to certified and executive roles, shaped by seizing opportunities, learning from peers, and embracing feedback.

The conversation also highlighted the importance of honest self-reflection and ongoing learning. Looking ahead, this milestone opens doors to expanded conference work, greater recognition, and exciting opportunities, including international and large-scale global events.



Check out our website for more information

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## AUSLAN DAY 2026: A DAY TO REMEMBER

On 13 April, communities across Australia came together to celebrate Auslan: the language at the heart of Deaf culture and identity.

This year, Deaf Connect hosted eight free events in Brisbane, Cairns, Melbourne, Parramatta, Adelaide, Darwin, Perth and Townsville.

From a planetarium tour in Brisbane to an art and activism workshop in Melbourne, an interpreted gallery tour in Darwin to Auslan Bingo in Adelaide, each event brought people together to connect, celebrate and enjoy Auslan in action.

Alongside the events, we launched My Auslan Story: a new video featuring Deaf community members sharing what Auslan means to them, in their own words and in their own language.

If you haven't watched it yet, it's worth your time.

Auslan Day may be over, but the celebration doesn't stop here!



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## A WEEK TO REMEMBER: CROSSING BORDERS YOUTH CAMP 2026

From 13 to 17 April 2026, Deaf Connect welcomed a group of young Deaf and hard of hearing Australians to Crossing Borders Youth Camp.

Over the week, our campers tried out high ropes, a flying fox zipline, and building bush shelters from scratch. They learned from Deaf Connect CEO Brett Casey on Deaf leadership, got active with Deaf Sports Australia, and created artwork together with Irene Holub.

One camper put it simply:

*“I feel I have been challenged, and I’m learning about leadership.”*

There were more presentations and team building activities than we could count, new friendships made, and confidence built. The week closed with a disco party before saying goodbye and heading back home.



Check out our website for more information.

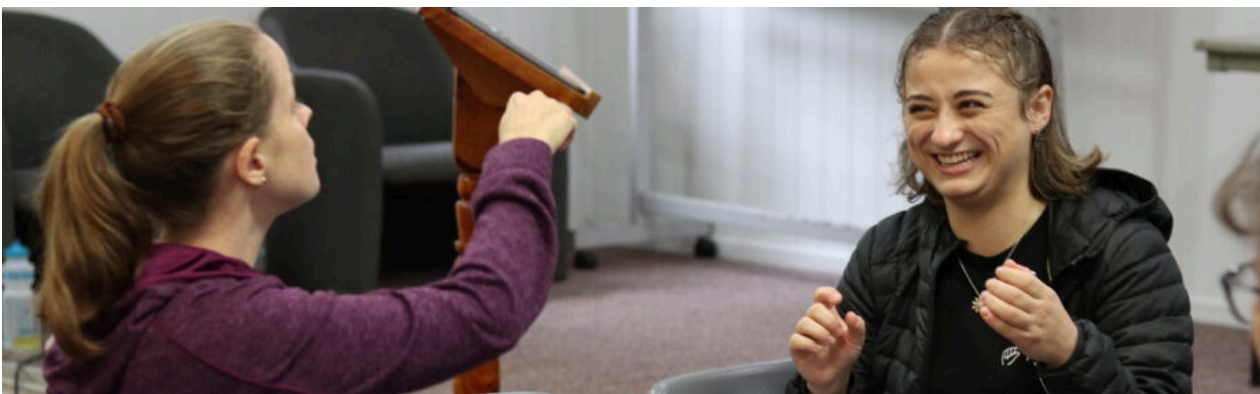
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## **CERTIFICATE III IN AUSLAN & DIPLOMA OF AUSLAN**

Enrolments are open now for our Certificate III in Auslan and Diploma of Auslan! Our team offers pathways to build confidence and fluency in Auslan, from becoming an independent user of the language to communicating proficiently across a wide range of topics.

Both courses deepen your understanding of Auslan and strengthen your connection to the Deaf community as you continue your learning journey.



Finished studying certificate II in Auslan or Certificate IV in Auslan? Want to study more Auslan?

Make sure you enrol!

Semester 2 begins July 2026.

Check out our website for more information.

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