

Facts about Deafness

- It is estimated 20% of Australians have some degree of deafness
- 1 in 1000 babies is born with significant hearing loss
- Auslan is recognised as the language of Australian Deaf Community
- Lip Reading involves a lot of guess work and is extremely contextual
- Only 30% of words can be understood through lip reading
- Written English is very difficult for some Deaf people to read and understand
- Deafness and being Hearing Impaired are not the same
- Not all Hearing Impaired people know Auslan

BENEFITS OF WORKING WITH A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER:

- Equal access to medical information and services.
- Increased confidence in communication for both the medical practitioner and the Deaf client.
- Adhering to current government policy on inclusivity and policy accountability.
- Using qualified interpreters is important to protect medical practitioners' legal responsibilities, i.e. informed consent, explanation of risk etc.
- Diagnostic and medical information delivered and received unvetted, unbiased, and undiluted.
- Good communication ensures good health advice, safe diagnosis and a healthy patient outcome.