



Statement of Endorsement of NAATI's certification system

About NAATI

The National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee and wholly owned by the nine Governments of Australia. A Board of Directors governs NAATI, and a Chief Executive Officer manages NAATI on a day-to-day basis.

NAATI's mission is to set and maintain high national standards for the translating and interpreting sector to ensure the supply of appropriately credentialed translating and interpreting professionals, responsive to the changing needs and demography of Australia's culturally and linguistically diverse population.

NAATI's certification system

From 1 January 2018, NAATI's credentialing processes changed to a certification system. The system replaces the previous accreditation process, and introduces new terms for the credentials NAATI confers on translators and interpreters who successfully pass NAATI's assessment.

The new certification system is the culmination of a five-year project, beginning in 2012, when Professor Sandra Hale (University of New South Wales) led a team of experts to produce the Improvements to NAATI testing (INT) report. All NAATI Members have supported the development and implementation of the new certification system.

The new certification system has the support of the translators and interpreters' representative bodies, including AUSIT (Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators), ASLIA (Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association), and Translators and Interpreters Australia (a division of Professionals Australia). The Federation of Ethnic Community Councils of Australia also supports NAATI's certification system.

An important advantage of the new system is that all practitioners are now required to obtain re-certification every three years by demonstrating their currency of practice and completing ongoing professional development. This requirement will provide greater assurance to the public that NAATI credentialed practitioners are offering a high quality, professional service and are committed to continuous improvement.

Transition arrangements to the NAATI certification system

NAATI is accepting applications from practitioners to transition to the new certification system free of charge until 30 June 2018. NAATI will list practitioners who have transitioned on its online, searchable directory, and will issue them with an interpreter ID card and/or a translator's stamp. Consumers can also verify credentials through an online verification tool.

NAATI will continue to hold records of practitioners previously awarded an accreditation who have not transitioned. The onus will be on organisations and/or individual consumers to verify that a practitioner holds a previous accreditation by contacting NAATI directly.

Further information

Full information about the certification system is available on NAATI's website

www.naati.com.au

NAATI Government Owners' endorsement of NAATI's certification system

Intended audience

This statement¹ is for Commonwealth government agencies, State and Territory government agencies, and language service providers assigning work to translators and interpreters. This statement is also for the information of the general public.

The Commonwealth, State and Territory Government Owners of NAATI agree that the improved standard setting of NAATI's certification system has inherent advantages that contribute to increasing the professional standing of interpreters and translators (practitioners) and the industry as a whole.

The inherent advantages include:

- independent certification of practitioners
- assurance that practitioners are currently active in the industry
- assurance that practitioners are committed to their ongoing professional development.

Preferred approach to engaging interpreters and translators

NAATI Government Owners preferred approach is that language service providers and other consumers requiring translation and interpreting services engage practitioners who hold a NAATI credential conferred according to the certification system.

NAATI Government Owners envisage that this approach will be phased in as follows:

Phase 1 - 1 January – 30 June 2018

- Practitioners who have not transitioned to the new certification system should be engaged on an equal footing with those who have transitioned – according to their equivalent credential level.
 - This aligns with NAATI's implementation timeframe in which previously accredited practitioners may transition at no cost to the certification system until 30 June 2018.

Phase 2 - 1 July 2018 – 30 December 2020

- In recognition of the improved standard setting of the new certification system, language service providers will give preference to assigning work to practitioners who have a credential under the certification system over those who do not.
- Organisations/individuals may engage practitioners who have not transitioned but who still hold an accreditation awarded by NAATI particularly in cases where there is no

¹ This statement is a guide only. In the absence of any contractual requirements stipulated in an agreement between a government agency and a provider, language service providers, government agencies, and other organisations may engage translators and interpreters according to their own policies and procedures.

equivalent certified practitioner available (because of lack of supply or for other reasons).

- During this phase, it is likely the majority of practitioners would have transitioned from an accreditation to a certification.
- It is anticipated that language service providers will gradually cease internal quality assurance processes for practitioners who have not transitioned to the certification system.
- By the end of Phase 2 most NAATI accreditations awarded after 2007 and which required revalidation would have expired.
- Individual clients engaging pre-2007 accredited practitioners who have not transitioned will be able to verify accreditations via NAATI's verification tool on its website (this tool is separate to the online, searchable directory of practitioners who hold a credential under the certification system).

Phase 3 - 1 January 2021 (the end state)

- Language service providers will engage practitioners holding credentials under the certification system as a matter of course.
 - After 1 January 2021, it is anticipated that language service providers will no longer assign work to the remaining practitioners holding pre-2007 accreditations who did not choose to transition to the certification system – very few such practitioners are expected to be actively working in the industry by this stage.
 - Practitioners holding pre-2007 accreditations can continue to market their services, but as per Phase 2, their customers will need to verify the practitioner's credentials by contacting NAATI.

Language service providers' allocation process

Government owners of NAATI acknowledge that language service providers will phase in preferential allocation of practitioners who have transitioned to the certification system depending on the providers' operational considerations.

Approach to procurement and remuneration

Individual jurisdictions may reflect the different levels of NAATI certification in their language service procurement policies and practices to recognise practitioners' credentials and to provide incentives to practitioners to upskill.