

Chapter 22

Social workers, the law and interpreters

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Chapter summary

Social workers may work with interpreters in any of the fields outlined in this volume. While social workers are among the professionals that most encourage the use of interpreters to meet client needs, the legal system still has difficulties in some cases in ensuring access to interpreters or being confident in working with them. While the right to an interpreter is recognised in criminal case law and is widely supported in general government policy, the use of interpreters by magistrates, lawyers, tribunal members or others who assess the level of English of witnesses or participants in various settings can

This is a preview. Not all pages are shown.

- Hale, S, 2007, *Community Interpreting*, Palgrave, Basingstoke.
- Hale, S, 2011, *Interpreter Policies, Practices and Protocols in Australian Courts and Tribunals. A National Survey*. Report to the Australian Institute of Judicial Administration <www.aija.org.au/online/Pub%20no89.pdf>.

Websites

No claim is made as to the accuracy or authenticity of the content of the sites suggested in this chapter. Site addresses change – if the address is no longer accurate, search using keywords or the title of the organisation concerned.

- Code of Ethics of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators (AUSIT) <www.ausit.org>
- Handbook on working with refugees for social workers <www.startts.org.au/resources/resources-for-free/>
- National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) <www.naati.com.au>
- Queensland Department of Communities <www.communities.qld.gov.au/resources/childsafety/practice-manual/prac-paper-working-cald.pdf> (a very useful, concise guide to working with interpreters in the area of child safety)
- Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) <www.immi.gov.au/living-in-australia/help-with-english/help_with_translating/index.htm>
- Victorian Government, Using Interpreting Services: Victorian Government Policy and Procedures <<http://www.multicultural.vic.gov.au/projects-and-initiatives/improving-language-services/standards-and-guidelines>>
- Victorian Transcultural Psychiatry Unit (VTPU) <www.vtpu.org.au>

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