



INTERPRETER STANDARDS TRANSITION SUPPORT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

We are rapidly approaching the end of the three-year transition period aimed at making the interpreter workforce ready for the formal adoption of National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) standards from 1 July 2024. Alongside this is the associated requirement that New Zealand public sector agencies and publicly funded services use NAATI credentialed interpreters.

First, thanks to all the interpreters who have registered for support, for yet another year of hard work, completing training, testing and assessments for their NAATI credentials. We expect to have a good number of credentialed interpreters ready for 1 July 2024 and many more during the following year.

It is important that all the interpreters who have invested their time and effort in becoming credentialed are confident that their efforts have been worthwhile.

Therefore, there is a parallel need to ensure that those who provide interpreters, and those who seek to use them in their work, are well-informed on their requirement to use NAATI credentialed interpreters and are supported to get their agency staff ready to implement the change as from 1 July 2024.

To support the change, considerable work has been done on preparing a Quality Improvement Framework, including Guidelines, which will be rolled out early next year along with various aids like videos, training and posters.

With that context, we are sharing the following timeframe with you and ask that if you know of people who intend to register for Interpreter Standards Transition Support (ISTS), please remind them to do this urgently. The dates are:

Date	What is changing	Further information
Wednesday 31 January 2024	Registrations close including for additional credentials.	The registration page on the NAATI website to apply for support through the ISTS will not be available after this date. Additional credentials means either languages added after the initial registration, or upgrading your credential (e.g. from CPI to CI). If you need support under the ISTS for additional credentials. You must email MBIE by 31 January 2024

Date	What is changing	Further information
Tuesday 2 April 2024	You must have enrolled for any training required towards getting your NAATI credential by this date.	<p>If your entitlement note says you need to undergo further training, you must select one of the providers listed in your note and apply for the course by 2 April 2024 or earlier if required by the institution's timeframe.</p> <p>If you do not meet this timeframe, you will no longer be eligible for training support under the ISTS.</p>
Sunday 30 June 2024	<p>Applications for testing and/or assessment for NAATI credentials close for those who do not require further training.</p> <p>Test fees for supplementary or repeat tests will no longer be paid.</p>	<p>If your entitlement note says you meet the criteria to apply directly for your test and or credential assessment, you need to do this by 30 June 2024.</p> <p>Any requests for supplementary tests or repeat tests must have been emailed to MBIE by 30 June 2024 to be eligible for support under the ISTS.</p> <p>You can choose to apply to NAATI for a test or assessment after this date at your own cost.</p>
Monday 30 June 2025	Fees for NZSTI test preparation workshops will no longer be available.	Fees for NZSTI test preparation workshops will remain covered under ISTS until everyone who is eligible to take a test and has a test date, has had an opportunity to attend one.
Monday 30 June 2025	All entitlements listed for testing in your entitlement note must have been used.	<p>Any remaining entitlements for testing (these will only be for people who have had to complete training first) that have not selected a test date will no longer be valid after 30 June 2025.</p> <p>After this date, you can still choose to become NAATI-certified at your own cost.</p>

By the end of transition, we estimate registrations will be at around 2,000 interpreters – an increase of 500 from the original estimate.

Alison McDonald

INTERPRETER STANDARDS, LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE SERVICES PROGRAMME

Refugee and Migrant Support | Immigration New Zealand / Rōpū Manene

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment / Te Manatū Pahi, Auahatanga me Ngā Kaupapa ā-Mahi

15 Stout Street | PO Box 1473 | Wellington | New Zealand

alison.mcdonald2@mbie.govt.nz