



Greetings | Tēnā Koutou

We have now registered almost 2,400 interpreters for Interpreter Standards Transition Support. This is a very healthy number and should ensure the sustainability of the profession for many years to come. While not everyone who registers will ultimately achieve a credential, many will, and we are very grateful for the extraordinary effort that you have made to do this. It has been good to see so many older and very experienced interpreters prepared to put themselves through the challenge of renewing their formal learning and being tested. It has also been heartening to see so many new younger recruits to the profession. You have certainly all been playing your part.

As a reminder, I am including the chart of important dates that I sent out in December below. There are also a few key messages to share with you in the form of Q & A:

What happens if I haven't completed my course or passed my test by 1 July 2024?

All entitlement notes issued before 30 June 2024 will be honoured. Registrations for support closed on 31 January to give us time to process registrations and enable you to enrol for courses and tests.

The deadline for obtaining your credential has been extended through to 30 June 2025.

Can I still work in the public sector if I haven't got my credential by 1 July 2024?

If you are continuing to work towards your credential you will be designated as **Interpreter WTN (Working towards NAATI) until you achieve your credential. You must have finished your course and applied for your credential by 30 June 2025.** The first choice for assignments from 1 July 2024 will be NAATI credentialed interpreters - Certified Interpreter (CI), Certified Provisional Interpreter (CPI) and/or Recognised Practising Interpreter (RPI). If no credentialed interpreter is available then an Interpreter WTN will be offered the assignment.

What happens if I fail my NAATI test?

You can send me an email asking for a 2nd test as long as you do so **before 30 June 2024.** Please attach the results of your failed test. In most cases a second attempt will be funded. **No second tests will be available after 30 June 2024.** You may like to fund the 2nd test yourself. Simply apply directly to NAATI after this date.

Can I upgrade my credential from CPI to CI?

As advised in the December information note, we were not able to accept requests to upgrade or add credentials after 31 January 2024. We have had to ensure we had sufficient funding to enable everyone to obtain a NAATI credential. This has meant restricting availability of additional credentials. However, you may like to fund the additional credential yourself – just apply direct to NAATI.

Continued

If I now have my credential, is there anything else I need to do to be ready for 1 July 2024?

Yes, you will need to complete the free mandatory New Zealand Public Sector Context Course “*Interpreting in Aotearoa New Zealand: The Public Sector Context*”. Please log into your NAATI Learn account to access it. This course is mandatory for those wishing to work in the New Zealand Public Sector from 1 July 2024, including those with Interpreter WTN status. This only takes around one hour and is self-paced and on-line. You may take it any time as long as it is completed by 30 June 2024. You will be able to download a Certificate and need to show your Certificate to your Language Service Provider or the hiring department after that date – so please keep it safe.

What do I do if I still have a question after reading this note?

The New Zealand Society for Translators and Interpreters (NZSTI) has kindly agreed to host a webinar where we will be available to go through this information and answer questions you may have. Please attend this webinar, there is no cost to you and we hope that it will remove the need for lots of email traffic to be dealt with.

Thursday, 14 March 2024
7.00 pm - 8.00 pm
Online via Zoom

Registrations required. Zoom link will be sent to registered participants only.

Event details page: <https://nzsti.org/QA-with-MBIE/19617-c5518f07-ba5c-4dbb-b6b7-7c780cf83f6f/>

Please email your questions in advance to info@nzsti.org

IMPORTANT DATES

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.	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. If you do not meet this timeframe, you will no longer be eligible for training support under the ISTS.

Date	What is changing	Further information
Monday 30 June 2025	All Certification test and Recognised Practising applications must be made by 30 June 2025. This should only be for those who required training that was not finished in time to meet the 30 June 2024 deadline.	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. It is the applications that must be made by 30 June 2025. The test is likely to be well after that date, depending on demand and the NAATI test schedule. As long as the application has been made by 30 June 2025, the test or assessment will be paid for.

Again, thank you for your efforts.

Hei konā mai | Goodbye for now.

Alison

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 Pakihi, Auahatanga me Ngā Kaupapa ā-Mahi
15 Stout Street | PO Box 1473 | Wellington | New Zealand

alison.mcdonald2@mbie.govt.nz |

Please note I work Tuesday to Thursday.

