

# RESEARCH DIRECTIONS

## A “Fair Go” – Interpreter Protocols in Courts and Tribunals

**Associate Professor Sandra Hale of the Interpreting and Translation Group will be researching interpreter protocols for courts tribunals across Australia. This research is funded by the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration.**

‘Accurate interpretation is vitally important in courts and tribunals to ensure fair and equitable proceedings’, says Associate Professor Hale. ‘Not only for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, but for those with hearing or speech impairments. Accurate interpreting depends on very high-quality interpreting, but also on the right working conditions, allowing interpreters to perform to their optimum level. Currently there are no consistent and clear policies about interpreting practices across the country. This study aims to review the current policies and to seek the views of interpreters, tribunal members and judicial officers on what needs to change or improve to facilitate better quality services. The results will be used to recommend the establishment of a national interpreting protocol.’

Interpreters, tribunal members and judicial officers will participate in surveys and questionnaires, as well as focus groups to report on strengths and weaknesses of current practices. All data will undergo both qualitative and quantitative analysis.



By determining how interpreters, tribunal members and judicial officers work together in courts and tribunals all over Australia, new and improved national policies, guidelines and protocols can be developed. This can ensure that all parties are working consistently and effectively and that Australians in need of judicial interpreting services get a “fair go”.

**Project Title:** Interpreter protocols in Australian courts and tribunals.

**Funding has been set at:** \$11,000

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