

## CHART A COURSE

# Signs point the way to a new language

**Course** Sign language 1 and 2.

Ever wanted to learn another language? It's not just friends and family of the deaf community who may be interested in learning Auslan, the official sign language of the Australian deaf community.

"There is a shortage of qualified Auslan-English interpreters in NSW," says the manager of the Deaf Society of NSW's Deaf Education Network, John O'Neill.

"We need more people who can communicate with deaf people. This was highlighted [during] the Victorian bushfires and Queensland floods," he says. "The premier at the time used Auslan interpreters for all her TV announcements, alerting hundreds of deaf people to what was happening in Queensland and what those affected needed to do."

This is a "taster" course, but many use it to step into accredited Auslan programs that lead to formal translating qualifications.

"With the exception of the start of sign language 1, the courses are taught by deaf teachers," O'Neill says.

**Duration** Seven weeks.

**Time** Two hours, once a week.

**Where** The Deaf Society of NSW has 11 venues across Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong; available online.

**When** Regular starts. Can be tailored for workplaces with deaf employees.

**Link** [deafsocietynsw.org.au](http://deafsocietynsw.org.au).

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