When working with an interpreter...

**DO**

- Send any handouts or preparation to the deaf person and interpreter ahead of the session. Answer any questions asked in advance.
- Be flexible and make sure the deaf person is able to see the interpreter and speakers clearly, usually sitting opposite the interpreter.
- Ask the deaf person if you have any questions about interpreting or how the session will work.
- Speak as you normally would (pace, content etc.).
- Ask the deaf person to explain something if you do not understand it.
- Allow extra time for the interpreter and deaf person to meet prior to the start of the session. This is so they can familiarise themselves with their language styles.
- Look at and speak directly to the deaf person.
- Include the deaf person in all conversations.
- Allow for ‘eye breaks’. It takes a lot more concentration for the deaf person to actively ‘listen’ with their eyes than a hearing person.
- Give the deaf person extra time to look at overheads or handouts - remember they can’t listen when they aren’t watching the interpreter!

**DON’T**

- Be concerned that information will be leaked/shared. Interpreters work to a strict code of conduct that includes confidentiality.
- Ask the interpreter to explain what the deaf person means.
- Speak slowly, over pronounce or try to think of simple sentences.
- Ask the interpreter about their job whilst they are working.
- Place either the deaf person or interpreter in front of a window, or too far away, as they won’t be able to see clearly.
- Ask interpreters for their personal opinions, ask them not to interpret something you said.
- Distract the interpreter and/or deaf person by moving around too much.
- Ask the interpreter to “tell him/her...”