

**Submission
No 1**

INQUIRY INTO AUSLAN INTERPRETATION FOR BROADCASTING

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Submission to the Inquiry into Auslan interpretation for broadcasting (NSW)

This Inquiry is examining whether to introduce live AUSLAN interpretation for proceedings of the Legislative Council and/or other ways to meet the rights of people with disabilities to access political information.

It is important to ensure that people with disabilities have the same access to public life. The Legislative Council of the NSW Parliament is a significant institution in politics. Under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), Article 29 speaks to participation and access to political and public life. It includes the responsibility for governments to "To promote actively an environment in which persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in the conduct of public affairs" (CRPD 29.b).

That speaks not only to making a minimum effort, but genuinely seeking and encouraging the participation of people with disabilities in political life. Having live AUSLAN interpretation, or other measures to facilitate access and engagement with our democratic processes, could be symbolic of actively promoting inclusion for people with disabilities. That is, a sign that we want more people to be engaging with the processes of Parliament and recognising that varied and equal participation is a good thing for our democracy.

There may not be a huge amount of the public that takes the time to watch Legislative Council proceedings. However, having measures such as AUSLAN interpretation ensures that there not additional barriers for a person with disabilities compared to someone else, should they choose to watch. Moreover, the more prominent debates and speeches could be reproduced to the public through the news media or on social media. Hence, having AUSLAN interpretation in the broadcasting could be helpful when these segments are copied in other formats.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Benjamin Cronshaw.