



ETHICS OF TRANSLATION & INTERPRETING

A GUIDE TO PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN AUSTRALIA



National Accreditation Authority of Translators and Interpreters Ltd

CONTENTS

Introduction	3
What is NAATI?	5
NAATI Accreditation	5
NAATI Recognition	5
What is an Interpreter's Role?	6
What is a Translator's Role?	6
NAATI Standards for Interpreting and Translating	6
<i>Paraprofessional Interpreter</i>	6
<i>Paraprofessional Translator</i>	6
<i>Professional Interpreter</i>	6
<i>Professional Translator</i>	7
<i>Conference Interpreter</i>	7
<i>Advanced Translator</i>	7
<i>Conference Interpreter (Senior)</i>	8
<i>Advanced Translator (Senior)</i>	8
Revalidation of Accreditation and Recognition	8
About AUSIT	10
AUSIT Code of Ethics: An Introduction	12
AUSIT General Principles	13
AUSIT Code of Practice	15
1. <i>Professional Conduct</i>	15
2. <i>Confidentiality</i>	16
3. <i>Competence</i>	17
4. <i>Impartiality</i>	18
5. <i>Accuracy</i>	19
6. <i>Employment</i>	20
7. <i>Professional Development</i>	21
8. <i>Professional Solidarity</i>	21
<i>Supplementary Notes to the Code of Practice</i>	22
ASLIA Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Professional Conduct	24
<i>Preamble</i>	24
<i>Values Underlying the Code of Ethics</i>	25

Guidelines for the Application of the ASLIA Code of Ethics	26
About AIIIC	35
<i>Membership Criteria</i>	35
AIIIC Code of Ethics	35
Ethical Dilemmas for Translators	39
Ethical Dilemmas for Interpreters	43
Professional Indemnity Insurance - Why is it Important?	48
Wording of Certification for Translators	48
Oath Given by Interpreters in Courts of Law	49
Affidavits	50
NAATI ID Card	52
The NAATI Translator Stamp	54
NAATI Certificate	56
Legal Rights and Obligations of Interpreters and Translators	57
<i>Standard of Care</i>	57
<i>Criminal Liability</i>	57
Legal Professional Privilege	58
The Practitioner and the Law	59
What is Mandatory Reporting?	60
Contextual Considerations	62
<i>Issues Affecting New and Emerging Communities</i>	62
<i>Interpreting in Specialised Areas</i>	63
<i>Translating</i>	67



Introduction

Practitioners of interpreting and translating encounter a variety of ethical issues and questions in the course of their work. Australian interpreters and translators understand and accept that ethical behaviour and the maintenance of high ethical standards are essential to good practice, in developing their profession and in maintaining positive opinions and perceptions.

While the National Accreditation Authority for Translator and Interpreters Ltd (NAATI) does not prescribe a code of ethics for the profession, NAATI does wish to assure the community that accredited practising translators and interpreters are aware of the issues involved in professional ethics and of the need for practitioners to accept and observe a suitable code of conduct. To that end a knowledge of ethical standards is an integral part of the NAATI accreditation, recognition and revalidations systems.

NAATI's *Ethics of Interpreting and Translation: A Guide to Professional Conduct in Australia* provides a source of materials on the subject as a basis for acceptable professional practice and to outline the knowledge about ethical practice that is required by NAATI of candidates for accreditation and recognition.

The Guide presents the three over-riding codes of ethics that are relevant to translators and interpreters in Australia. The code developed by the Australian Institute of Translators and Interpreters (AUSIT) in conjunction with NAATI in the early 1990s and revised in 1995 and 1999 has now become the most widely used code of ethics in Australia. The code of the Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association (ASLIA) is included for Auslan interpreters in Australia and the code of ethics developed by the Association Internationales des Interpretes de Conference (AIIC) is the code practiced by the members of this association who work in the global marketplace.

Within Australia, most of the public interpreting and translation services have adopted the AUSIT code of ethics. This code, endorsed by NAATI,

represents a national code of ethics and should be recognised by all practising interpreters and translators in Australia.

NAATI acknowledges AUSIT, ASLIA and AIIIC for providing their respective codes, Maria Maggio De Leo for the examples provided in Part 3, Lyn Bongiovanni, the public service providers and the practising T & I professionals among NAATI staff for their contributions to this Guide. Background was also obtained from "Working with Interpreters in Law, Health, & Social Work" (1990) Editors: Len Roberts-Smith, Q.C., Roger Frey & Susan Bessel-Browne.