



ASLIAVICTORIA
Australian Sign Language Interpreters' Association
To lead and promote best practice in sign language interpreting across Australia

AUSLAN INTERPRETING INDUSTRY FORUM VICTORIA (AIFV) STEERING COMMITTEE UPDATE – NO. 6

The sixth meeting of the AIFV Steering Committee was held on **Thursday 10 November 2011**.

CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST HERE!

With AIFV Steering Committee meetings ending for the year, we wish you a Merry Christmas and thank you for your involvement in the Auslan Interpreting Industry Forum Victoria (AIFV).



In line with the theme of celebrations we are also pleased to announce that the first AIFV Report *Why Auslan Interpreting Matters* has been completed. This Report will be released to you in the New Year. Keep your eye out for your invitation to the launch. Meanwhile, here are some reflections over the past year:

When we discuss the need to improve the sign language interpreting industry, it is important we start from the start.

There are many people in the disability sector and outside of it who simply aren't aware how important Auslan interpreting is. They are not aware of the value that interpreters like you provide. Many people also aren't aware of the positive impact that sign language has on Deaf people's capacity to lead fulfilling lives. When we talk about improving the industry, it is vital that we educate people about why it is important for the health, wellbeing and quality of interpreters themselves *and* for Deaf people.

As we look at where we've come since March 2011, we're proud to say that we have taken a conscious approach to avoid "band aid" fixes and a piecemeal approach to improving the quality, education and supply of Auslan interpreters. We've taken a step back. Started from the start.

Next year, we'll hand down our first Report to you, Government and our stakeholders. We'll also outline a plan for action for 2012. Then we will roll up our sleeves and continue to work for the industry's improvement.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Here's to improving the sign language interpreting industry for both Deaf and interpreting communities, as well as the general public, in 2012 and beyond!

NEXT AIFV STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held in **early 2012**.

ACCESSIBILITY: If you would like any information in an alternative format, like MS Word or Auslan, please email us at the address below.

QUESTIONS: Please contact the AIFV Steering Committee by email at projectofficer@asliavic.com.au.

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