New Zealand Sign Language Strategy 2026 – 2036 - *Action Plan to 30 June 2027*

Key: Priorities in the NZSL Strategy

1 = Acquisition & Learning
2 = Data & Evidence
3 = Deaf & NZSL Workforce
4 = Public Sector
5 = Celebrating NZSL

May 2026 | June 2026 | September 2026 | December 2026 | March 2027 | June 2027

NZSL Board

- 5 Action Plan Launched
- 3 20th Anniversary of NZSL Act
- 5 "Celebrating NZSL" — *Aligning promotional activity with new strategy*
- 1 Deaf Education Futures Forum — *Deaf Education Strategic Hui to bring together key stakeholders to strengthen pathways, capability, and system responsiveness for Deaf learners.*
- 2 3 NZSL Workforce — *Host a National NZSL workforce development forum to identify system-wide workforce needs, capability gaps, and potential collaborative actions to support a sustainable NZSL workforce. The NZSL Workforce includes teachers, tutors and interpreters.*
- Action Plan July 2027 – June 2030 Developed
- Annual Report on NZSL Strategy progress and impact
- NZSL Interpreter Standards

Ministry of Disabled People | Whaikaha

- 4 NZSL Language Plan developed and submitted
- 4 NZSL AI Forum — *Deaf leadership and NZSL expertise in AI development*
- Support NZSL Board with targeted engagement to accelerate progress across government:
  - 3 4 PSC – Leadership Development Centre programmes available with NZSL interpreters
  - 2 1 MoE – Detailed Action Plan for NZSL in schools
  - 4 MoH – Detailed Action Plan for NZSL in health settings
  - 2 StatsNZ – Improving data infrastructure
- 3 Interpreter Workforce Strategy Developed, including:
  - NZSL Interpreters
  - Tri-lingual interpreters
  - Tactile Sign interpreters
- 3 Develop Indicator Framework — *Data and Evidence*

Departments & Public Services

NZSL Capability Plans Developed /annual reporting, supported by Whaikaha

Government departments will be engaged to develop NZSL Capability Plans. Public Services will be engaged to provide data in their annual reporting.
For the purposes of this Action Plan, references to the public service mean all public service departments, departmental agencies, interdepartmental executive boards, and interdepartmental ventures listed in Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020 (together referred to as public service agencies). Crown agents are included where they are treated as part of the public service for the purposes of relevant provisions of the Public Service Act 2020. The public service forms part of the executive branch of government.
NZ Police are included within the scope of this Action Plan, in recognition of their significant public-facing role and responsibility to ensure their services, information, and engagement are accessible to Deaf people who use New Zealand Sign Language.