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Interpreting in the health sector – a comparative analysis

A community development group facilitated by Dave Taylor at SMLS is preparing a Discussion Paper examining interpreting service provision in public hospitals and other medical facilities in Victoria.

Our paper will focus on whether human rights are compromised with current interpreting services in the health sector, and will be the first such research undertaken on this issue. We will draw on various international treaties in developing a definition of basic human rights. In this regard, we note that the ACT introduced a *Human Rights Act* in 2004 and is the first and only state or territory in Australia to do so. Proposals for a Human Rights Charter in Victoria have not succeeded at this stage.

Further our paper will compare the current regime of interpreting services in other sectors (such as the justice system) with the health sector. The comparison will discuss the lingual requirements, the impact of interpreting services and accountability requirements in each sector, within the context of legislation, human rights and other relevant demographics for each sector.

Our presentation will outline the discussions and research conducted by final (or penultimate) year law students concluding with our recommendations and proposals for further research.