

Leong Ko
(University of Queensland)

Quality control vs quantity control in training NAATI translators and interpreters

Since the Australian Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs introduced a new policy in 2001 that allowed translation and/or interpreting practitioners with NAATI qualifications as Translators and/or Interpreters to migrate to Australia, all NAATI-approved programs at this level have been flooded with inquiries and applications. New programs at both public and private training institutes have been approved by NAATI, with still more likely to be developed in future. On the one hand, it is good to see the rapid development of translation and interpreting training in Australia, but on the other, there is a need for measures to ensure quality control to maintain the well-established reputation of NAATI Translators and Interpreters and the quality of translation and interpreting services in Australia. This paper will look into various issues in this regard, including problems that have been identified with training, issues surrounding quality control, the role of NAATI in overseeing the quality of training, the impact on the translation and interpreting market, and future prospects of translation and interpreting training in Australia.