



# Top 10 interpreted languages for the WA health system 2017–2018

More than 240 languages are spoken in Western Australia (including Aboriginal languages). In 2017–2018, the top ten migrant and Aboriginal languages interpreted for the WA health system were:



Migrant languages	Aboriginal languages
1. Vietnamese	1. Ngaanyatjarra
2. Arabic	2. Aboriginal English
3. Mandarin	3. Walmajarri
4. Cantonese	4. Kriol
5. Karen	5. Kukatja
6. Farsi	6. Jaru
7. Italian	7. Nyangumarta
8. Burmese	8. Gooniyandi
9. Dari	9. Martu
10. Serbian	10. Pitjantjatjara

## About translated (written) information

### Check list

**NOTE:** The most commonly spoken or interpreted languages in Western Australia are not necessarily the languages spoken by your target group for translated information.

### About translations:

- HSPs may identify a need to provide translated health related information to consumers/and or carers who cannot effectively communicate in English.
- Translation expenses are borne by the relevant HSP commissioning the services.
- There is a comprehensive guide in the [WA health system Language Services Policy Guidelines](#) to assist with developing translated consumer resources.
- Go to the [Common Use Arrangement for Interpreting and Translating Services](#) to find a Translator.

*Translation is rarely a word-for-word exchange between language*

### Key steps include:

- Preparing a plan for what information you need to translate.
- Checking whether there are existing translations on the same topic that may be suitable, or would be suitable with minor changes.
- Ensuring the information is tailored for the intended audience; and that it is relevant and culturally respectful.
- Regularly evaluating and reviewing the translation to make sure the information is current.
- Web-based translation applications should never be used! The text cannot be relied upon for accuracy. Inaccurate translations could pose a risk to consumer rights, health and safety.

