Bridging the Gap

Issue 45 – June 2019

Kia ora koutou and welcome to the June edition of Bridging the Gap.

I’m Helen Crabb, the Interpreter Co-ordinator for MBIE

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Refugee Status Branch - move to new location

After a couple of delays, we have finally moved! The Refugee Status Branch has moved to new offices.

The new location is: 167b Victoria Street West, aka The ‘Spark Building’. RSB will be on Level 5 of the Blue Tower – the northeast one. The Blue Tower is most easily accessed from Hardinge Street which is between Spark and the NZ Post/Kiwibank buildings.

Once you arrive, take the lifts from Level 3 (street level) to Level 5 reception, where you will see Wajihah Azimi, who will be ready to welcome you.

Early bird parking is available at the Crowne Plaza ($18/day) or Sky City ($21/day). Public transport may be more convenient – North Shore buses stop down on Fanshawe St and many buses stop right outside.

Looking for another branch of MBIE?
The Labour Inspectorate is in the ‘Spark Building’ as well. Compliance, Risk and Intelligence will be joining us next week. However Employment Relations Authority and Mediation are staying in 280 Queen St for now.
Please carefully check the address of your bookings.
The Language Assistance Services Project

Check the Language Assistance Services Project page for the latest on this project.


What’s new?

Telephone interpreting services Request for Proposals

We have issued a request for proposals (RFP) for Government-wide telephone interpreting services. This has been advertised on the New Zealand Government Electronic Tenders Services (GETS) website.

Refugee Quota increase

Preparations are continuing for the increase in the quota from 2020. There is quite a bit of building work going on at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre, but the facilities will look great when they are ready for the new clients in July 2020!

Effective from Monday 27 May there will be extensive work on the driveway that exits onto Massey Road. As a result the driveway will be closed. While this upgrade is under way access will be via the Cleek Road gate.

World Refugee Day 2019

The commemoration of World Refugee Day 2019 will be held at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre on 22 June 2019

34 Cleek Road, Mangere

Saturday, 22 June 2019
9:00 am until 2:00 pm

Please arrive before 10:30 am
Light lunch included
Please RSVP by registering on the link https://forms.gle/EoRMvcm1QHn2zCW6

The event is an opportunity to experience cultural performances and a range of activities for children and adults, such as face painting, hunger ball games and real Ethiopian coffee. A lunch of various ethnic cuisines will be offered to all participants starting 12 PM.
If you have registered online please bring a copy of your registration to show to security at the gate. Gates will be closed between 10:30 am and 11:00 am. Security may ask to search your bags at their discretion, your cooperation is appreciated.

**New Refugee and Protection Officers**

The Refugee Status Branch has employed a new Refugee and Protection Officer (RPO). Welcome Farhana! Five new RPOs will be starting in July, and I will introduce them to you in the next newsletter.

Hi, my name is Farhana Khan and I started working at the RSB in February 2019. Prior to this, I have had experience as a human rights lawyer and an investigator within government. I volunteered at a community law centre in the refugee and immigration legal advice session for two years. I also have an interest in languages. I have enjoyed working with interpreters in recent months and I look forward to working with more of you in future.

**Liability and Indemnity Insurance**

Should MBIE be responsible for indemnifying interpreters?

The first point is, all interpreters must be treated the same so we can’t agree to the terms and conditions of individual interpreters.

Interpreters are independent contractors. As such, you contract to MBIE just as any other contractor supplying work for us does.

Therefore interpreters should look after their own indemnity insurance.

However you can never stop some frivolous or vexatious court action being instituted by a disgruntled client. It is just a risk of doing “business” with third parties.

**Rare languages**

Recently we have been searching for interpreters in:

- Bengali
- Bulgarian
- Burmese and Chin
- Cambodian/Khmer
- Dari
- Fijian
- Hungarian
- Kiribati
- Lingala
- Malay
- Maori
- Ndebele
- Pashto
- Romanian
- Shona
- Somali
- Swahili
- Tamil (Sri Lankan)
- Tigrinya
- Turkish

If you know anyone who interprets one of these, or another rare language, please ask them to get in touch with me. We have over 100 languages on our list, but it’s still not enough!

This year we needed interpreters in 35 different languages, ranging from Arabic and Mandarin to Twi and Tigrinya. Thank you all for your contribution!

**Interpreter reference resources**

Interpreters have their own resource page on the Immigration New Zealand (INZ) website which has many useful tools, such as immigration and refugee related terminology.

[Interpreter Reference Resources on the INZ website](http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/immigration/interpreters)

**Glossaries**

Refugee claims based on a person’s religion or beliefs are common. The terms used by some religious groups can be unfamiliar, or carry a special meaning.

To help with your preparation for these types of interviews we have added some new glossaries to the Interpreters’ page. These glossaries include Falun Gong and Church of Almighty God which is specifically for interpreters of Chinese languages.

If you feel there are any other areas that would benefit from a glossary being created please let us know.

Contact details

Our contact details haven't changed. You can contact me by phone or email:
Helen: (09) 928 2227 or email: Helen.Crabb@mbie.govt.nz

If you need help, or to cancel an interpreting appointment at RSB at the last minute, and cannot get hold of me, please call the Refugee Status Branch: (09) 928 2236, or email RSB@mbie.govt.nz.