

Health Translation Unit

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Health Language Services

South Western Sydney

Local Health District

HTU - Types of texts for translation

- Direct patient care related texts e.g.
 - Assessment results
 - Orders issued by Mental Health Review Tribunals
 - Letters to patients
 - Medical reports
 - Health research surveys & related information
 - Clinical Dpts' health information for specific patient/community groups

Terms

- **Translator** – translates texts from LA to LB
- **Checker** – also an accredited translator
 - checks translated text for readability, appropriateness, accuracy etc
 - collaborates with the translator on the final version
- **Proof-reader** – usually the original translator
 - proofreads ready-for-publishing final version

Current challenges

- The checking process –
 - Building language teams
- Community feedback – anyone can offer an opinion
 - Translations sent for review
 - Demands placed on resources
 - Added value (?)

Community translation – a balancing act

- Translators – “in order to explain my choice, I need to give a lecture first ”
- Agencies
- Clients

Translation skills vs. spoken language

“People who learned to talk at two or so and have been practicing talking ever since feel with some justification that they know their language; but what they know is their spoken language...”

(Ursula K. Le Guin , quoted in ‘Brain Pickings’)

Machine translations – questions to consider in AU context

- How high/low our tolerance rate for inaccuracy (*Huang 2011*)
- MT-ed texts in healthcare –
 - Developing best practice standards
 - QA
 - Safeguards - flow on effect into interpreting
 - Ethics

Machine translations – questions to consider in AU context, cont.

- Who becomes the checker: qualifications and remuneration
- Translating as a profession – Quo Vadis
- Community feedback - protocols
- Good or just good enough