

# New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)

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**Kia ora**

# New Zealand Sign Language Act 2006

- **Official Language**
- **right to use NZSL in courts**
- **principles to guide govt use of NZSL**
- **possible regulations for NZSL interpreters**



# Post- NZSL Act

- 2011 Govt led review of NZSL Act
- 2012-13 Human Rights Commission NZSL Inquiry
- 2014 Govt renewed focus on NZSL
  - Education eg: First Signs services established 2014
  - Need for a mechanism of promotion and maintenance
    - NZSL Board established 2015

# NZSL priorities

- Using existing info **from Community** – research, reports, submissions, etc.
- NZSL Language vitality factors and research (VUW)
- Elements of successful Language Planning and Policy (LPP)

# 4 focus areas for LPP

## Status

- Recognition: law, policy, rights
- Planning: actions, resources, monitoring

## Documentation

- Dictionary, grammar, research, archives
- Teaching & learning materials

## Acquisition

- Children (D) – 1<sup>st</sup> language, use in education
- Adults (H) – 2<sup>nd</sup> language learning

## Attitudes

- Awareness & tolerance of language
- Value & visibility of language

## NZSL Board priorities

- NZSL in the home
- NZSL in education
- Access to information and services in NZSL
- Māori Deaf – Tangata Turi
- Interpreter standards





**Thank you**