



Natalie Ward
Minister for Sport, Multiculturalism, Seniors and Veterans

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW CELEBRATES VITAL WORK OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS

The crucial and tireless work of NSW translators and interpreters in delivering vital health messages during the COVID pandemic has been recognised on International Translation Day.

More than 160 interpreters and translators were thanked by the Minister for Multiculturalism Natalie Ward at a NSW Government forum acknowledging their key contribution.

“It’s a great representation of our wonderful multicultural community that more than 200 languages and dialects are spoken across NSW, and more than a fifth of our population speaks a language other than English at home,” Mrs Ward said.

“The demands on our Multicultural NSW translators and interpreters during COVID have been greater than ever, and I’m so grateful for all of their wonderful efforts. Many have worked long days and nights to ensure critical information has been made quickly available.”

Since the start of the pandemic, Multicultural NSW has translated more than 3000 COVID resources into almost 60 languages.

“This represents almost 1 million words translated to the highest standards,” Mrs Ward said.

“These resources include essential information about public health orders, the importance of vaccination, support services and financial help.”

Multicultural NSW translator Costa Potiris has been translating COVID health messages into Greek since the start of the pandemic.

“Translators and interpreters are the voice of our multicultural society. It’s our job to make sure every member of our community has the same access to vital information and services,” Mr Potiris said.

“My colleagues and I have been proud to translate materials that have made a real difference during the pandemic. Without a doubt that has contributed to our vaccination rates and helped protect our community and save lives.”

More than 1200 translators and interpreters are employed by Multicultural NSW.

For more information, see: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-translation-day>.

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