



# Event Information Kit



National Auslan Day celebration is held annually on day of 13th of April, this celebrates the language of Australian Deaf community and honouring the publication date of the Auslan dictionary.

The 13th of April 1989 was when the first Auslan (Australian Sign Language) dictionary was published by Professor Trevor Johnston. Previously Auslan was known as sign language. This publication officially gave our community a name for our language, and Auslan was then recognised as a community language in Australia in 1991 by Australian Government.

It is intended to be a great platform for Auslan users to proudly promote Auslan as our native and preferred language for Deaf people, as well as recognising the culture and history of the Deaf community. This will promote and increase awareness of Auslan and its community of users to the broader Australian community. It will also create momentum in pushing for Auslan to be formally recognised as an official minority language in Australia.

### **Did You Know...?**

1. As of 2021, there is over 16,000 Auslan users in Australia documented through Australian Census.
2. Auslan was influenced by multiple languages such as British Sign Language and Irish Sign Language.
3. World Health Organisation (WHO) predicts that 1 in 4 may experience hearing loss by 2050 which sign language would be greatly benefit not only deaf community but for everyone.

### **2025 Auslan Day Theme**



## **#AuslanGain**

*Deaf Australia encourages members, allies of the Deaf community and mainstream society to celebrate and recognise Auslan Day.*

There are many ways your community can recognise Auslan Day on 13 April and all year round. Regardless of how big or small your involvement is, we encourage you to get creative and mark Auslan Day in your own unique way.

We have some ideas for you to get started!

## Auslan Competition

The Auslan Day theme for 2025 is **#AuslanGain**. We invite participants to create and submit videos that highlight this theme. Whether through fiction or non-fiction, storytelling, jokes, poetry, or visual forms of expression, the focus is on celebrating the gain that Auslan brings to the Deaf community.

Create a video in Auslan that reflects the #AuslanGain theme. Your content can take the form of:



Stories



Joke



Poetry



Visual Vernacular

The video should be between 1 to 3 minutes in duration.

## Submit your video by 13th April 2025 11:59pm AEST

For more information including eligibility, guidelines and prizes, please visit our website:

<https://deafaustralia.org.au/auslan-day-video-competition-2025/>

If you require assistance or have any questions, please contact us by email: [media@deafaustralia.org.au](mailto:media@deafaustralia.org.au).



## Events

### Guest Presentation

Invite a key deaf and Auslan user presenter to speak about Auslan and emphasise the significance of human rights in accessing sign language. The presenter could be your teacher or educator, a student with linguistic expertise, a deaf advocate, or Deaf Australia.

*Suitable for large audience such as at workplace, universities, school or private event.*

### Auslan Storytime

Tell stories or read wonderful books to children in Auslan. There are wonderful Auslan books you can purchase from our Auslan Shop. If you are not fluent in Auslan but wish to organise this event, contact your local deaf organisation or business.

*Suitable for young audience at school, playgroup and club.*

### Auslan Class

Invite a Deaf Auslan tutor to teach Auslan. There are many Auslan education businesses that offer full courses or one-off classes. It's important to learn some Auslan signs before celebrating!

*Suitable for local communities, education and workplace.*

### Auslan Slam

A poetry slam with a twist—participants perform poetry in Auslan. The event could feature both Deaf poets and hearing poets who sign in Auslan, showcasing the beauty and depth of language in visual form.

*Suitable for local communities.*

***Please do not expect deaf and Auslan users to provide support your event for no fee.***



## Events

### Panelist or Q&A

Organise unique panel event featuring key people (preferably Deaf and Auslan users). To discuss importance of Auslan access & inclusion in relations to human rights.

*Suitable for medium to large audience such as at workplace, universities, school or private event.*

### Auslan Fete – BBQ or Picnic

Host a community picnic or social gathering to celebrate Auslan Day. This event could include fun games and activities, such as a treasure hunt where clues are given in Auslan, or Auslan games as outlined on page 5.

Take photos of your event and share them on social media. Be sure to tag Deaf Australia and #AuslanDay2025 to join the broader celebration!

*Suitable for local communities.*

### Auslan Film Screening

Screen a collection of short films, documentaries, or feature films that focus on Deaf culture, Auslan, or the experiences of Deaf individuals. After the screening, host a discussion or Q&A session with filmmakers, Deaf individuals, or educators.

*Suitable for local communities.*

**Submit your event to [media@deafaustalia.org.au](mailto:media@deafaustalia.org.au) to be featured on our Auslan Day website!**



## Games & Activities

### Auslan Bingo

1. Download our Auslan Bingo PDF – it includes both the bingo board and tokens with handshapes.
2. Cut out the board and tokens featuring different handshapes. Mix them up.
3. Draw a token and identify the handshape shown.
4. The player who matches all handshapes on their board wins Bingo!

*Suitable for small to medium audience such as at workplace, universities, school or private event.*

### Auslan Whisper (Chinese Whisper)

Pass a sign along a line of players without it changing too much.

How to play:

1. Form a Lines – Gather players and stand in a line (suggest more than 4 people per line)
2. Select a message – The organiser provides a message in Auslan to pass along.
3. Whisper the Sign – The first player signs it to the second player, who then signs it to the next player. No speaking allowed! Allow one repeat only!
4. Final outcome – Front of all group, each last player signs what they think they saw.
5. Compare – The organiser reveals the original sign, and everyone compares to see how much it changed.

*Suitable for small audience such as at workplace, universities, school or private event.*

### Auslan Trivia

Organise a trivia game with all questions relating to Auslan facts or deaf facts.



## Games & Activities

### Simon Says – Auslan Edition

Follow the leader's actions, but only when they say "Leader says." Avoid mistakes!

How to Play:

1. Designate a Leader – Choose a leader to stand in front of the group. They will give the instructions and show the actions.
2. Choose Five Action Signs – The leader picks five Auslan action signs, like: Star – Sign for "star" and mimic a starfish or Jump – Sign for "jump" and actually jump.
3. Start the Game – The leader says "Leader says" and performs one of the actions. Everyone else follows the sign and movement.
4. Elimination – If a participant does the action without hearing "Leader says" or doesn't act fast enough, they're out.
5. Winner – The game continues until one person remains. The leader can add more complex actions or speed things up to make it more challenging.

*Suitable for small to medium audience.*

### Auslan Charades

Guess the Auslan sign acted out

How to Play:

1. Prepare Cards – Write words/actions on cards (e.g., "eat," "jump") and shuffle them.
2. Split into Two Teams – Divide players into two teams. One team picks a leader to act out the signs.
3. Guess the Sign – Players guess the sign. First correct guess wins a point or leads next.
4. How to win – The team with the most points at the end of the game wins!





## Crafts

### Colouring in!

Download our official colouring in page for Auslan Day. [Download here](#)

*Suitable for all ages.*

### Handprint Art

Create handprint art using paint, paper, and markers. Make handprints on paper (individual or collective) and write their names. Encourage creativity in how their hands will look by using different handshapes.

*Suitable for school age children.*

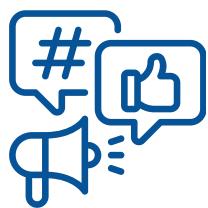
### Handshapes crafting

Make handshapes crafts using paper, scissors, and glue. Cut out traced hand shapes from paper, and children can create their own handshapes by bending the fingers and palm to make signs.

*Suitable for school age children.*







## Join the conversation

If you can't hold or attend an event, you can still get involved in Auslan Day and help raise awareness in your community. Some ideas are:

### Post and Share

Visit our website for social media content to post and share with your network. Use **#AuslanGain** and **#AuslanDay2025**

Please acknowledge Deaf Australia in your content.

### Learn & Spread Awareness

Read our factsheet and do research on Australian Sign Language, attend Auslan course and use Auslan with your friends, families, peers and colleagues.

### Follow Us and Reshare

Follow @Deafaustalia and reshare our posts, content and information on Auslan Day

