

Friday, 19 September 2008

DO YOU SPEAK A SECOND LANGUAGE?

The Minister for Multicultural Affairs Michael Atkinson is urging Riverland residents who can speak languages other than English to consider using their skills as an interpreter.

“Interpreters help to protect the rights of new migrants at a grass-roots level. Without interpreters, many non-English speaking residents would find it difficult to live happily in South Australia,” he said.

“Migrants make a huge contribution to the economic life of regional towns. Without interpreting services, different ethnic groups cannot survive and thrive in country South Australia,”

The State Government’s Interpreting and Translating Centre (I.T.C.) is looking to employ Riverland people who can speak languages such as Arabic, Dari, Hazaragi, Pushtu, Persian, Swahili, Nuer, Dinka and Tagalog.

“New residents in the Riverland, particularly from Afghanistan and Africa, often need help to break down language barriers and establish themselves and their families in their new town.

“Understanding terminology can be difficult at the best of times and this is aggravated for people who don’t speak English well. Interpreters connect non-English speakers to important resources such as legal, medical, financial and social services,” Mr Atkinson said.

“Interpreters ensure migrants views are accurately expressed to business and service providers. They also make sure non-English speakers understand vital legal, financial, business and health information.”

The I.T.C. will also visit the Riverland to teach service providers how to use interpreters effectively.

The *How to Work with Interpreters* workshop will be held at the Riverland Division of General Practice, 3 Vaughan Terrace, Berri on Thursday 24 September from 2.30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The workshop will give tips on how to make the best use of an interview or consultation using an interpreter and how to book an interpreter for face-to-face, telephone or Internet interpreting.

“Ensuring people know how to tap into the range of interpreting options available is critical to preventing people from non-English speaking background from becoming isolated from society.”

The I.T.C. has provided confidential and professional translating services to South Australians for more than 30 years, covering about 110 languages and dialects.

For more information on the workshop or on becoming an interpreter, call the I.T.C. on (08) 8226 1950.