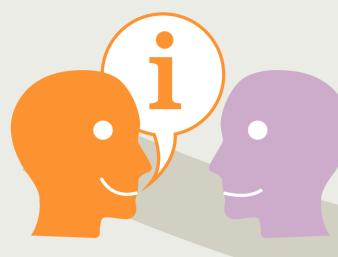
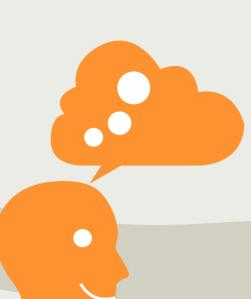
9 TIPS FOR AN INTERPRETED SESSION

A PRACTICE TOOL FOR MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONERS WORKING WITH INTERPRETERS

The term 'PERSON' refers to a consumer, family member or carer engaged with the mental health service



Let the person know their rights to access interpreting services



Obtain relevant details of the person and the interpreter to inform the booking i.e.

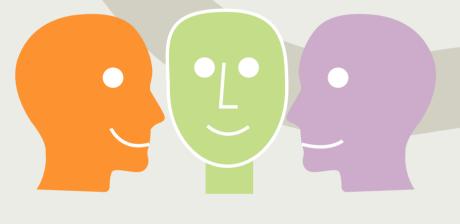
- Language/dialect
- Gender preference
- Migration history
- Mental health credentials
- Socio-political context



Before the session, support the interpreter by providing adequate context for the session (i.e. purpose, standard procedures, relevant clinical information, etc.)



Arrange the room in a way that allows you to face the person directly, and ensure that appropriate equipment is available (i.e. speaker phone)



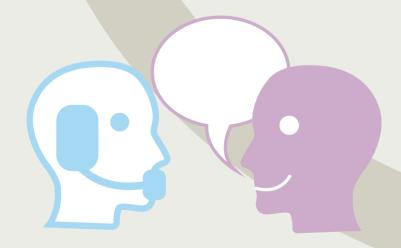
During the session, provide clarity by discussing the purpose of the session, and ensure that all parties will adhere to confidentiality protocols



After the session, debrief with the interpreter, acknowledge their contribution and request feedback



The process of interpreting cannot be rushed and patience is required. Pause in order to allow time for interpreting, and summarise on a regular basis



Offer the person the opportunity to provide feedback about the interpreter (i.e. by engaging a telephone interpreter or with minimal communication)



Seek reflective supervision to improve your practice in approaching this work

These points are elaborated upon in the resource Approaching work with interpreters in mental health settings: A supplementary resource for mental health practitioners.

This practice tool forms part of a suite of resources developed through the project Approaching work with interpreters in mental health settings (Victorian Transcultural Mental Health, 2019)

