

# Interpretation

## FACTS VS FICTION

### Myth

**The ability to speak two or more languages means you can interpret**

A good conference interpreter needs verbal and mental agility and an in-depth knowledge of two languages. One of these languages should be his or her home language/mother tongue. The interpreter must be able to convey all the nuances of the original speaker in the other language.

### Myth

**Membership to a professional organisation means that you are an expert interpreter**

Membership only means that the member has paid his or her membership fee.

### Fact

**An accredited interpreter or translator has passed a voluntary examination**

Once an interpreter or translator has passed the examination set by the South African Translators Institute, they are entitled to use the abbreviations APSI and APT after his or her name.

### Fact

**Maximum actual working hours must not exceed seven hours per day** If interpreters will be needed for more than seven hours in one day, a second team of interpreters may be required.

### Fact

**There should be two interpreters for one direction in each language combination (e.g. Portuguese to English)** However, in South Africa, there are usually two interpreters who work in both directions (e.g. Portuguese to English and English to Portuguese)