

## **Interpreting, Trauma and Disaster in Ōtautahi Christchurch, Aotearoa New Zealand: A Decade of Learnings**

Sally Carlton

Community Languages Information Network Group (CLING), Citizens Advice Bureau,  
NEW ZEALAND

Lesley Campbell

Community Languages Information Network Group (CLING), Lebern & Associates, NEW  
ZEALAND

Erwin Lacruz

Interpreting New Zealand, NEW ZEALAND

### **ABSTRACT**

The city of Ōtautahi Christchurch in Aotearoa New Zealand has experienced a succession of disasters over the last decade. Two groups which have worked with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) communities before, during and after these disasters are the Community Languages Information Network Group (CLING) and Interpreting New Zealand. This paper sets out these groups' key learnings in regards to the complex issue of interpreting experiences of trauma and disaster. In particular, the paper highlights the risks of not engaging professional interpreters in such situations, and underscores the importance of providing interpreters with training that emphasises wellbeing and self-care alongside language skills and ethical considerations (Crezee et al. 2015:77; O'Brien et al. 2018:630; Jaeger et al. 2019:9; Labaf et al. 2019:4; Lai & Costello 2020:70-85;). The paper discusses implications from these learnings, both for language service providers (LSPs) and for agencies that engage their interpreters.

**KEYWORDS:** Christchurch, disaster, interpreting, trauma, wellbeing