

Deaf community to receive more support in the 2023 Census

02 December 2022, 11:00am

View our New Zealand Sign Language translation video [Deaf community to receive more support in the 2023 Census | New Zealand Sign Language – YouTube](#) (/news/deaf-community-to-receive-more-support-in-the-2023-census/#video) .

An ambitious project to translate all the 2023 Census questions into New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) will help the Deaf Community participate more easily in the census next March, Stats NZ said today.

Once completed, more than 80 NZSL videos with closed captioning (text versions of the words spoken on the videos) will be hosted on the [official Census website](https://www.census.govt.nz/) (https://www.census.govt.nz/).

“Making the census as accessible as possible to all people of Aotearoa New Zealand is a key part of what we are doing differently in the 2023 Census,” Deputy Government Statistician and Deputy Chief Executive for Census and Collection Operations Simon Mason said.

Stats NZ has worked with the Deaf Community and other organisations, such as Deaf Aotearoa and Victoria University of Wellington | Te Herenga Waka, on this project.

“We are working hard to remove barriers to participation in the next census so that Deaf and disabled communities can take part more easily and be better represented in census data. This would not be possible without the support of our collaboration partners,” Mason said.

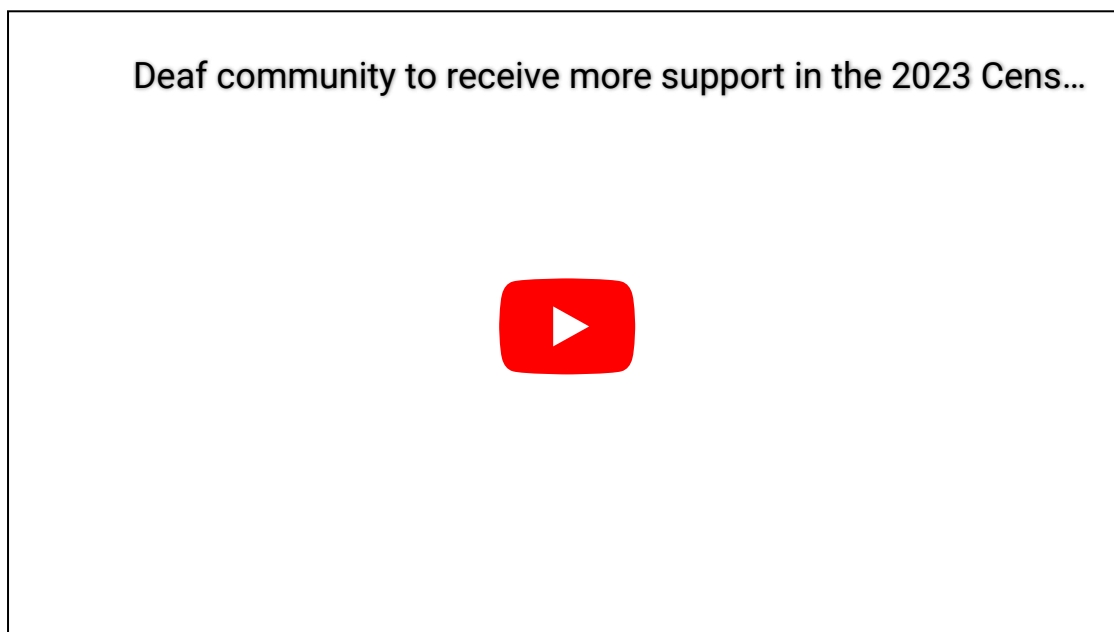
The New Zealand Sign Language Board, which promotes and maintains NZSL as an official language in New Zealand, uses census data to understand how many Deaf people use NZSL in this country. The last census showed that 23,000 people were using NZSL in 2018, including about 4,600 Deaf people. The New Zealand Sign Language Board helps fund groups, like the Wellington Deaf Youth Group, to access and connect with others learning NZSL.

Youth group member Oscar Lynch says the group helps boost his confidence in using NZSL. “I can talk with other people using NZSL, and there are interpreters and role models to help me along with that,” Lynch said.

A new census video showing how census data can benefit the Deaf community is part of a campaign rolling out across the country encouraging Deaf and disabled communities to take part in the 2023 Census.

For more information and to watch the video, see:

- [Data helps people access and use New Zealand Sign Language | 2023 Census | Aotearoa New Zealand](https://www.census.govt.nz/all-of-us-count/nzsl/) (https://www.census.govt.nz/all-of-us-count/nzsl/)
- [2023 Census Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/2023census/videos/875185163849326/) (https://www.facebook.com/2023census/videos/875185163849326/) (post to share)
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