Metro South Addiction and Mental Health Services

Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre

Glossary of mental health terms for interpreters and translators

English - Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, Farsi, French, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Khmer, Kirundi, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Tigrinya and Vietnamese
Glossary of mental health terms for interpreters and translators
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Introduction

The development of the Glossary of Mental Health Terms was initiated and coordinated by the Queensland Transcultural Mental Health Centre. The primary aim of this publication is to assist interpreters, translators and bilingual staff to familiarise themselves with mental health terminology. It does not represent a substitute for formal training, but is a practical resource to support interpreters, translators and bilingual staff in mental health settings.

The Glossary contains the most commonly used mental health terms in Amharic, Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese, Croatian, Dari, English, Farsi, French, Greek, Hindi, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Karen, Khmer, Kirundi, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Tagalog, Tamil, Tigrinya and Vietnamese.

Practitioners using this resource should note that some of the terminology contained in this Glossary relate to terms which originated in western service models of mental health care and as such as not readily translatable.

The development of the terminology contained in this Glossary has been checked by relevant mental health professionals and endorsed by the reference group which consisted of representatives from the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ), the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (NAATI) and the Queensland Branch of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators Inc (AUSIT).