"Australian Sign Language [asf] (A language of Australia)

- **Alternate Names:** Auslan
- **Population:** 7,150 (2006 census).
- **Language Status:** 5 (Developing). De facto language of provincial identity in New South Wales.
- **Dialects:** None known. Related to British Sign Language [bfi], with influences also from Irish [isg] and American sign languages [ase]. Many structural similarities between British Sign Language (BSL) [bfi], Australian Sign Language (Auslan)[asf], and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) [nzs] and a high degree of mutual intelligibility (2003 T. Johnston). Linguists sometimes use the name BANZSL to refer to them as a group, while still recognizing them as separate related languages.
- **Typology:** Two-handed fingerspelling system.
- **Language Use:** Some signed interpretation in court, for college students, at important public events. Australian Signed English, a manual system for representing English[eng], is distinct from Australian Sign Language, and is used by hearing people for communication with the deaf, to teach the deaf, and officially so in New South Wales.
- **Language Development:** Taught in primary schools. Films. TV. Videos. Dictionary. Grammar. Bible portions: 1999–2002.
- **Other Comments:** Earliest schools for the deaf established by British deaf immigrants in 1860. Many agencies for the deaf. Sign language instruction for parents of deaf children. Committee on national sign language."

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