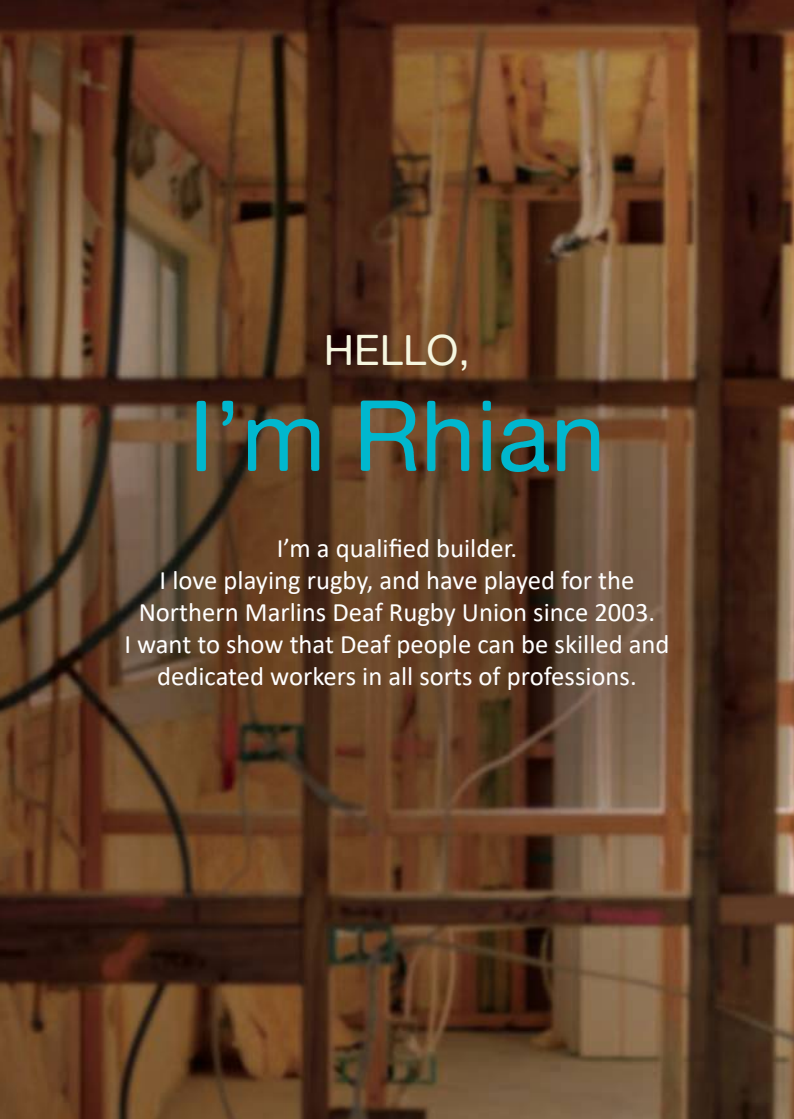
I am Deaf

LET'S TALK

25 Signs to Learn at Work

deaf.org.nz

Deaf AOTEAROA
TĀNGATA TURI



HELLO,

I'm Rhian

I'm a qualified builder.
I love playing rugby, and have played for the Northern Marlins Deaf Rugby Union since 2003.
I want to show that Deaf people can be skilled and dedicated workers in all sorts of professions.

Deaf Aotearoa

Deaf Aotearoa is the Disabled Persons' Organisation (DPO) representing the voice of Deaf People, and the national service provider for Deaf people in New Zealand.

Deaf Aotearoa's services include:

- First Signs – access to NZSL and language development for families of deaf children age 0 – 5
- Youth – activities that develop strong Deaf identities and leadership skills, and providing a youth internship programme
- Employment – a transition programme and job seeking support, and supports Deaf people to retain their employment or upskill
- Hauora – needs assessments, assistive equipment, and information and advice
- iSign – NZSL interpreting services that assist communication between Deaf and hearing people.

Deaf Aotearoa works closely with Deaf communities, government agencies and other organisations to increase awareness, promote NZSL and strengthen the rights of Deaf people.

Deaf Aotearoa is the New Zealand representative to the World Federation of the Deaf.

Deaf Aotearoa also provides education and awareness courses to organisations that want to learn about Deaf culture and NZSL. These courses can be tailored to accommodate organisations' interests and time requirements.

Deaf Awareness courses

Get an insight into the Deaf world, explore NZSL, Deaf culture and the community through these interactive courses. They're ideal for breaking down communication barriers for businesses, groups and organisations.

NZSL Courses

NZSL courses are tailored to your environment. Courses can teach basic principles of NZSL including NZSL grammar and common words and phrases. Courses can also be designed to teach words and phrases specific to your environment. NZSL courses can be provided in a setting that suits you, for example, First Signs family's home, Kindergartens or Early Childhood Education centres.

Deaf
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For more information visit deaf.org.nz

NEW ZEALAND

SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

TE WIKI O TE REO TURI

Every May, Deaf Aotearoa organises New Zealand Sign Language Week – a celebration of one of the country's official languages.

NZSL Week is a chance for the Deaf community to stand proud as Deaf, and to celebrate their language and culture. It also works to break down barriers, fears and misconceptions. NZSL Week lets Deaf New Zealanders put their hands up and be seen!

Our vision for NZSL Week is to increase awareness and understanding of NZSL and the Deaf community, and to empower and strengthen the Deaf community.

For more information visit nzsignlanguage.nz

Safari File Edit View History Bookmarks Window Help
New Zealand Sign Language
THE STORY OF NZSL
From then to now
NZSL ART COMPETITION
Unleash your creativity
NZSL JOURNEY
Start yours today
NZSL WEEK
Exploring the world of New Zealand Sign Language
For an Aotearoa where anyone can sign anywhere
RESOURCES
KŌRERO WITH JON
SING AND DANCE IN NZSL
POSTERS AND PAMPHLETS
News
NEW ZEALAND SIGN

HOW TO COMMUNICATE **WITH A DEAF PERSON**

A conversation with a Deaf person is the same as a conversation with a hearing person – Deaf people just use different communication tools.
Like hearing people, Deaf people are unique individuals with interesting qualities and skills. They have families, jobs and hobbies.

You can communicate with Deaf people in several ways, including New Zealand Sign Language, spoken/written English or a mix of these.

Appropriate use of gesture, body language and facial expressions can also be very effective, as Deaf people communicate visually.

Not all Deaf people can lip read well. It's estimated 70% of lip reading is guesswork, even if the speaker articulates clearly. That's why relying solely on lip reading as a way to communicate isn't recommended.

Face the Deaf person and get their attention before speaking. Eye contact is very important so try to maintain it and don't turn away while the Deaf person is signing.

Using a New Zealand Sign Language Interpreter is the best way to ensure full communication occurs. Booking an interpreter is easy and quick and will avoid communication breakdowns.

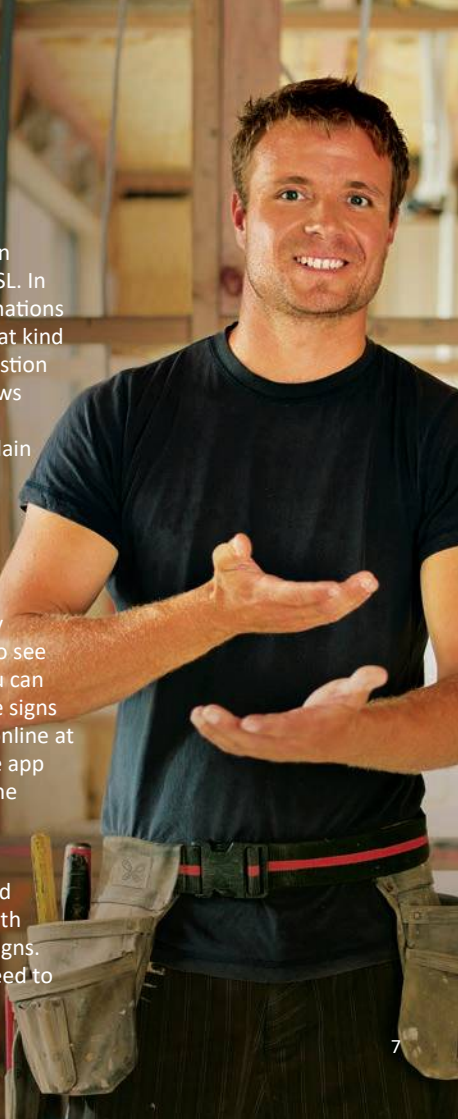
To book an interpreter, contact iSign:
www.isign.co.nz
0800 934 683 or Free TXT: 3359
bookings@isign.co.nz

A FEW TIPS FOR **SIGN LANGUAGE**

Facial expressions
Facial expressions are an important aspect of NZSL. In spoken languages, intonations are used to indicate what kind of sentence it is – a question or statement. NZSL shows intonation using facial expressions. Having a plain facial expression is like speaking with a monotonous voice. It's boring!

Hand position
Hand positioning is very important. It's helpful to see the signs in action – you can look up videos for these signs in the NZSL Dictionary online at nzsl.nz or download the app from Google Play and the Apple App store.

Which hand to use?
Use your dominant hand – the hand you write with – to execute all of the signs. For some signs you'll need to use both hands.



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I am Deaf
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25 Signs to Learn for
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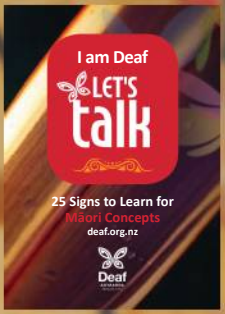
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25 SIGNS TO LEARN AT WORK

This is one of a series of booklets designed to introduce you to NZSL. It gives you a practical opportunity to quickly learn some basic vocabulary relevant to your environment.

Learn these signs and use them as often as you can. Tell your friends about them and share the wonderful gift of NZSL. Then you'll understand why 25,000 New Zealanders use it every day!

ALSO AVAILABLE:

25 Signs to learn for First Signs Families

25 Signs to Learn with Your Family

25 Signs to Learn for Medical Situations

25 Signs to Learn for the Weekend

25 Signs to Learn for Māori Concepts

are you all right?

INSTRUCTIONS

The right fist is held out palm forward/ down, blade right, thumb extended, and is moved forward, down and round in small vertical clockwise circles, twice. Eyebrows are raised.

boss/manager

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out, palms towards the body, blades down, the forefingers and thumbs extended forming an L-shape.
The hands are moved up/back towards the shoulders, bending from the elbows, to palms facing the head, and blades forward.

INFO-LINK
PROGRESSIVE
BUILDING

break

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out a little way apart, palms down, and moved towards each other, then twisted towards each other from the wrists.

chat

INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held up from bent elbows, the right hand nearer to the signer, the right palm facing left and the left palm facing right, with fingers apart and pointing up. Both hands move forward together, twisting rapidly and very slightly from the wrists.

coffee

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out, palms facing the signer, the blade of the right fist resting on the thumb edge of the left fist.
The right fist is rubbed in small anticlockwise circles on the left fist.

SIGN
WEEK
8-14
NZSL Week Events
Welcome to New Zealand Sign Language Week!
Taster Class Registrations Now Open!
FREE NZSL
Taster Classes
MacBook Pro

computer

INSTRUCTIONS

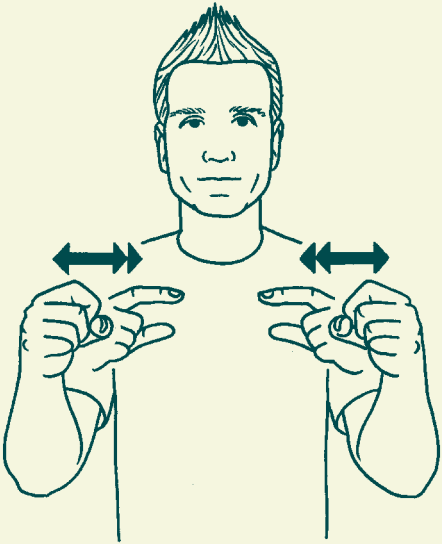
The left hand is held out, palm right, blade forward, fingers curved towards thumb in a C-shape. The flat right hand is held palm forward/down, blade right, fingers flexed with fingertips just inside the C-shape, tapping down on the left thumb.

fingers wiggling as if playing a piano.

Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

MacBook Pro

email



INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held out, palms facing each other, blades out. Both forefingers are crooked, then flicked twice towards each other while the fists move back and forth at the wrists.

finish

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held up from bent elbows at shoulder height, palms facing each other, blades down, thumbs extended. The fists are twisted at the wrists towards each other, rapidly, several times.

good morning

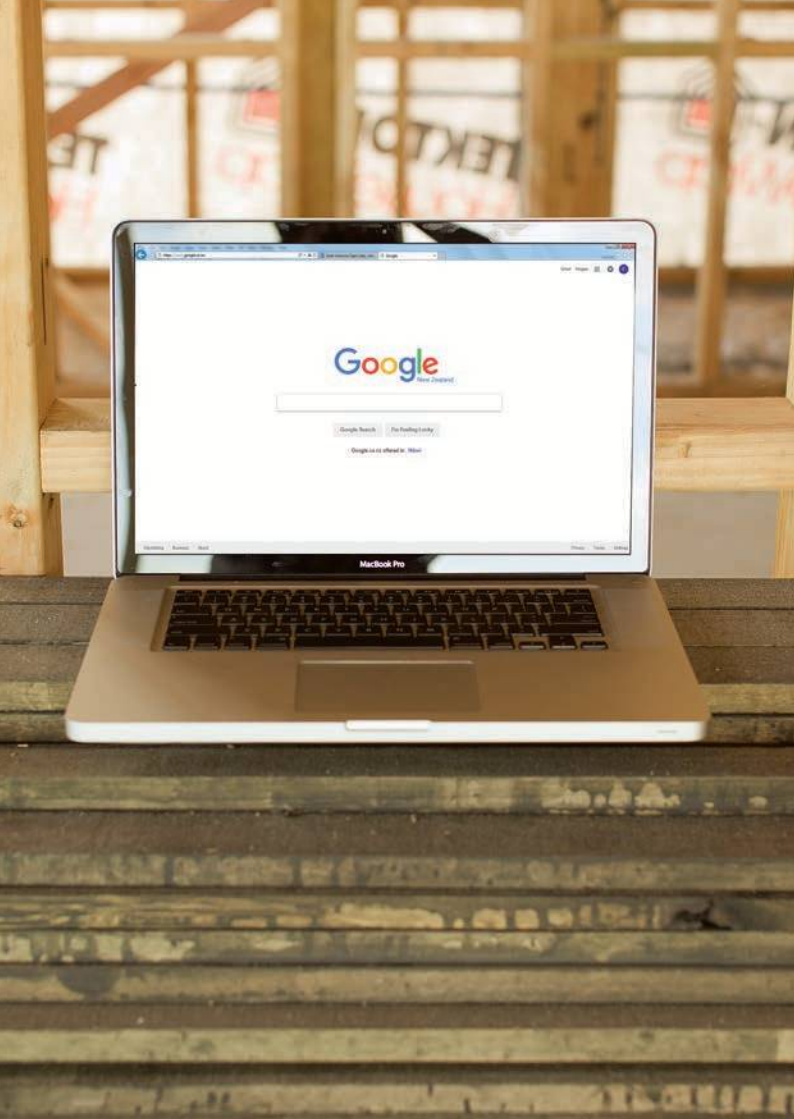
INSTRUCTIONS

First the right fist is held up, thumb extended and pointing upwards. Then the right hand changes to palm left/down, blade forward, the thumb and forefinger meeting to form a D-shape, the other fingers apart and curved. The formation is moved up/right in an arc.

good on you

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are held at shoulder level, palms facing the signer/in, blades down, with the thumbs extended, and are moved forward/right to a halt, with a little bounce at the end of the movement.


Google
MacBook Pro

google

INSTRUCTIONS

Both hands are raised at head level, palms facing each other, blades facing outwards. The thumbs and forefingers meet to form an O-shape, the other fingers apart. The hands move in a circular motion alternatively in front of the face, twice.

lunch

INSTRUCTIONS

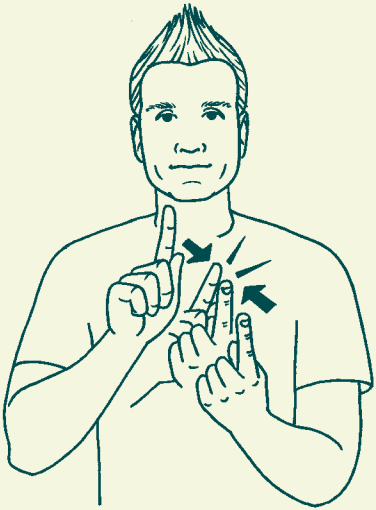
The right hand is held up near the right jaw, palm left, blade forward, the fingers flexed and the thumb opposed. The right hand is moved left a little way.

mate

INSTRUCTIONS

Both fists are raised, pressed together between the first and second knuckles, the left fist blade down and the right blade forward. The fists move apart a little, twisting from the wrists, to meet again with the positions reversed, twice.

meet



INSTRUCTIONS

The left fist is held up, palm facing the signer/up, blade right, the forefinger extended. The right fist is held up in front of the face, palm forward/left, blade forward/right, the forefinger extended.
The two hands are moved towards each other, contacting at the knuckles.

meeting

INSTRUCTIONS

Both hands are held up, the right hand higher than the left, palms facing forward, with the extended forefingers pointing up and the other fingers curled. the hands are moved towards each other, down and round in vertical circles, alternately, twice.

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Saturday 19
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FIVE DOLLARS
THIS NOTE IS LEG
KAREAREA
Full Project Management
021 021 69929
JULY
AUGUST
SEPTEMBER

money

INSTRUCTIONS

The right hand is held up, palm up/back/in, blade down/forward/in, with the fingers bunched into the thumb. The thumb pad is rubbed across the pads of the fingers, several times.

Thumb pad rubs across the pads of the fingers.

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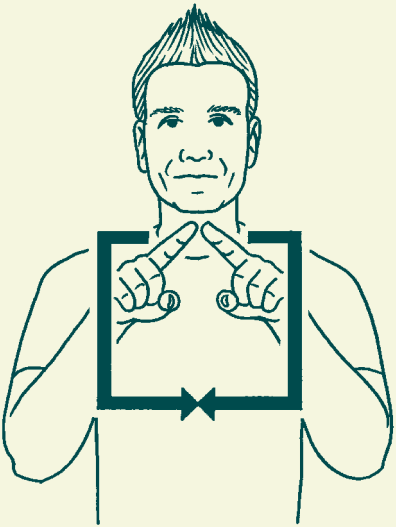
Express
150 CIE Whiteness
A4 210mm x 297mm
80 g/m²
500 Sheets

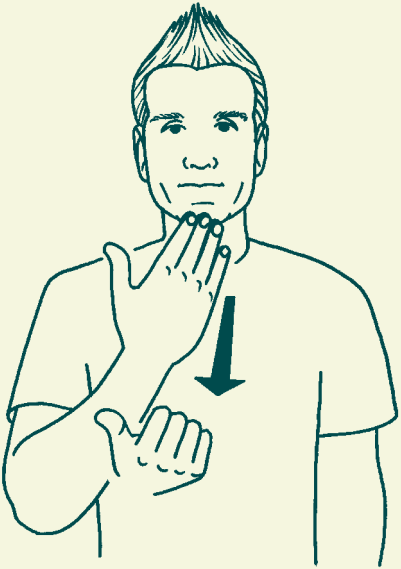
paper



INSTRUCTIONS

Both hands are held up, palms forward, blades out, with the forefingers extended, meeting at the tips.
The fists are moved horizontally apart towards the sides, then down, then horizontally towards each other.

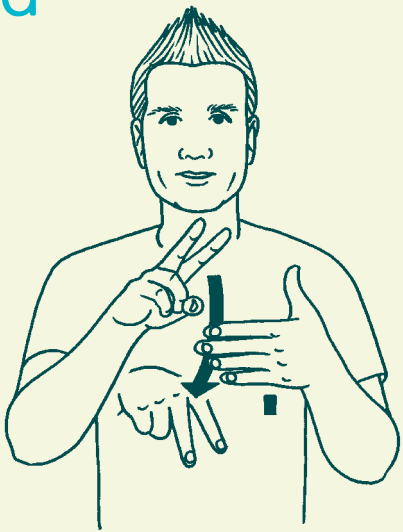
please



INSTRUCTIONS

The flat right hand is held up, palm facing the signer, blade left, with the fingertips touching the chin. The hand is moved slowly forward/down to palm up/facing the signer, with the fingers curling up into a fist and the thumb sticking out.

read



INSTRUCTIONS

The flat left hand is held out, palm up/back/right, blade down/back/right, fingers spread. The right fist is held above the left hand, palm down, blade forward/right, with the first two fingers extended and apart, and is moved down.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

sorry

INSTRUCTIONS

The right hand is held up at the right side of the head, palm forward/left, blade back/left, fingers apart and slightly curved. Moving from the elbow, the hand is moved side to side in front of the right temple.

tea

INSTRUCTIONS

The right hand is raised, palm facing the signer, blade down, the thumb and forefinger meeting to form an O-shape, the other fingers apart. The left hand is held at chest level, palm up and blade back. The right hand twists up from the wrist to palm left, blade forward.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

NOKIA
XpressMusic

text (mobile phone)

INSTRUCTIONS

The right fist is held out from the bent elbow, palm left, blade down/back, with the forefinger hooked and the thumb extended. The hand is moved forward/down, the thumb flexing down against the forefinger, rising a little and pressing down again, making small circular movements.

thank you

INSTRUCTIONS

The right hand is raised so that the fingertips touch the chin, palm facing the signer, blade left, fingers curved, and is moved forward/down.

Port-O-Let

toilet

INSTRUCTIONS

The right fist is raised to the right ear, palm forward/left, blade forward/right. The side of the forefinger and tip of the thumb take hold of the ear lobe, and tug it a little, several times.

work

INSTRUCTIONS

Both flat hands are held out palms in/facing the signer, blades down, the right above the left. The hands move towards each other, the right blade striking the left forefinger side twice.

▮ Hold/keep indicated hand in position.

THANKS!

Deaf Aotearoa would like to thank all those that play a part in promoting New Zealand Sign Language Week each year. Particular thanks to Rhian.

New Zealand Government

For more information visit nzsignlanguage.nz

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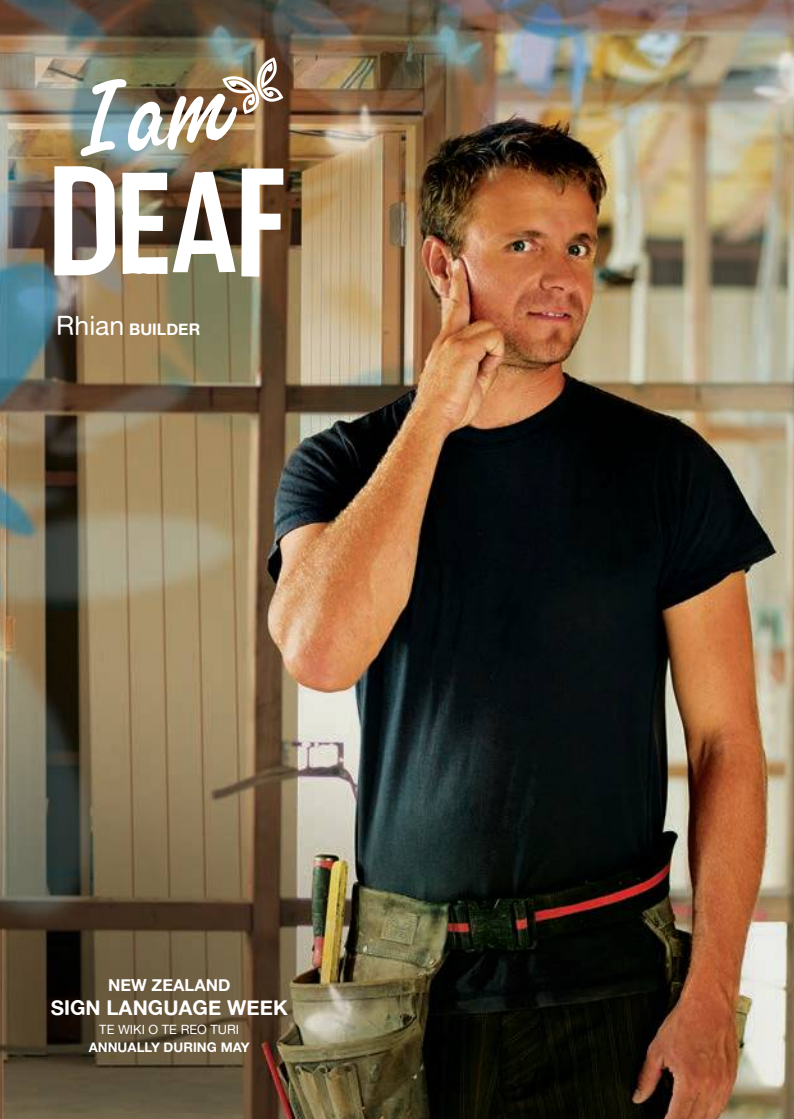
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ANNUALLY DURING MAY