

Intercultural Understanding Guide: Egyptian Culture

Geographic context:

- The Arab Republic of Egypt, also known as Egypt, is an Arab nation geographically linking northeast Africa and the Middle East.

Languages:

- The official language in Egypt is Egyptian Arabic, but Sa'idi Arabic is also widely spoken.
- The Egyptian Arabic dialects have notable diversity, leading to instances where native speakers may have difficulties in understanding each other.

Religion:

- Most of the Egyptian population identify as Muslim.
- There is a small number of the population identifying as Coptic Orthodox Christian and some other denominations of Christianity.

Values:

- The principle of honesty tends to hold significant esteem.
- Failing to fulfill a commitment is deemed to bring discredit upon one's family.

Social norms, structures and hierarchy:

- It is recognised that a gender script is deeply established, leading men and women typically maintain physical distance.

Communication style:

- Egyptians are generally expressive and passionate and tend to love telling stories and employing word-play and jokes in the conversation.
- Indirect communication is prevalent in their cultural context.
- Public displays of anger can be viewed as discouraged and could be interpreted as offensive.

Demographics in Australia:

- The 2021 Australian Census indicated that there are 43,213 Egyptians currently living in Australia. There are also 16,819 Australians who have Egyptian ancestry.

- **Reference:** [Cultural Atlas](#)

