

Intercultural Understanding Guide: Filipino Culture



Geographic context:

- The Philippines, officially known as the Republic of Philippines is an archipelagic country in Southeast Asia.

Religion:

- Influenced by the colonial period of Spanish, 92.5% of the Filipinos are Christian.

Language:

- In the Philippines, people speak Filipino (Tagalog) and English as official languages.
- There are over 120 languages and dialects spoken across 7,107 beautiful islands.

Values:

- A pervasive attribute of Filipino culture is profound respect.
- Contributing to the shared distribution of responsibilities is considered as a “community spirit.”
- Fellowship or togetherness is a core value that explains Filipino interpersonal behaviour stems from.

Communication style:

- Filipino people tend to be very hospitable, emotional and passionate.
- They normally try to express themselves diplomatically and indirectly with humility.
- When meeting someone, initial greetings are considered formal and follow a protocol of greeting people that are eldest or most important first.

Social norm/structure/hierarchy:

- Family is a very important aspect and it is considered as a firm foundation of people’s life.
- Often people older than yourself/parents age are referred to as “Aunty” and “Uncle” as a sign of respect
- It is respectful and an acknowledgement of wisdom to greet elders by taking their hand and kissing or touching the back of their hand to your head and saying “Mano po”

Demographics in Australia:

- As the fifth largest immigrant group in Australia, there are 283,892 Filipinos currently living in Australia. There are also 408,842 Australians who have Filipino ancestry according to the 2021 Australian Census.

References:

- [Cultural Atlas](#)