

Intercultural Understanding Guide: Italian Culture

Geographic context:

Italy is a country in Southern Europe that mainly consists of a large peninsula in the Mediterranean Sea, with two major islands – Sicily and Sardinia.

Language:

- Italian is the official language of Italy.
- 93% of the population are native Italian speakers.
- Around 50% of the population speak a regional dialect as their mother tongue.

Religion:

- Italy is officially a secular state. However, its religious and social landscape is deeply influenced by the Roman Catholic tradition.
- The Catholic Church's statistics indicate that 96% of Italians were baptized as Catholic.

Values:

- People tend to identify themselves by their region, city, town, village or even a district within a town.
- People's connection and loyalty to one's township or locality could be stronger than one's connection with Italy as a country.
- Family is the most important aspect of an Italian's life.

Communication style:

- Italians tend to be direct communicators.
- They are normally open to discuss their thoughts and emotions.
- They are also quite open, inquisitive and bold.
- Italians might raise their voice when they speak, but it doesn't necessarily represent anger.

Demographics in Australia:

At the 2021 Australia Census, 1,108,364 people nominated Italian ancestry, representing 4.4% of the Australian population. Furthermore, it is also found out that 163,326 people living in Australia were born in Italy.



References:

- [Cultural Atlas](#)