

# Intercultural Understanding Guide: Spanish Culture

## **Geographic context:**

- Spain, also known as the Kingdom of Spain, is a southwestern European country located between France and Portugal. Spain contains a number of different historical provinces and localities that each have their own distinct identity, cultural practices and traditions.

## **Language:**

- The most common language in Spain is Spanish which is currently spoken by 94% of the total population as their first or second language. It is followed by Catalan (16%), Galician (5.64%) and Basque (1.26%).

## **Religion:**

- Catholicism has had a longstanding influence on the culture and society of Spain.
- 68.5% of the population identified as Catholic. A further proportion of the population identified as no religion (16.8%) or atheist (9.6%).

## **Values:**

- Personal character and integrity are highly valued traits, as is modesty.
- The family, both nuclear and extended, is the central social unit in Spain.

## **Social norms/structure/hierarchy:**

- Like many collectivist cultures, Spanish society deeply values group affiliation.
- Spain contains a number of different historical provinces and localities that each have their own distinct identity, cultural practices and traditions.

## **Communication style:**

- Spanish people are more likely to be direct communicators.
- They speak openly and are willing to show emotion. It is important to avoid ambiguity and indirect speech.

## **Demographics in Australia:**

- Currently, there are 17,281 Spanish people living in Australia according to the 2021 Australian Census.

