

# Intercultural Understanding Guide: Turkish Culture

## **Geographic context:**

- Turkey (officially the Republic of Turkey) is situated on the crossroads between Europe and Asia. Its geographic position between these continents has exposed Turkish society to both Eastern and Western culture.

## **Language:**

- The official language of Turkey is Turkish.
- The widespread Kurdish (Kurmanji) and the moderately prevalent minority languages Arabic and Zazaki are also spoken in Turkey.

## **Religion:**

- Turkey is a secular country with a majority Muslim population.
- National identification cards automatically list any citizen as 'Muslim' at birth unless their parents have registered them to other constitutionally recognised minority religions.

## **Values:**

- The concept of honour is deeply embedded in Turkish culture, noticeably influencing people's behaviour.
- There is also a strong belief that people should maintain ties with their relatives and care for their parents and elders.

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

- Turkey has a collectivist culture whereby strong loyalty is shown to familial and social groups, as well as the broader nation.
- People's relationships with their neighbours, friends and community are generally closer than what many from the English-speaking West experience.

## **Demographics in Australia:**

According to The 2021 Australian Census, there are 38,568 people in Australia who were born in Turkey.



## **References:**

- [Cultural Atlas](#); [ABS](#)