

ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP General Information

Agg. 06/09/2021

Italian citizenship can be acquired:

1. by birth (from a parent who is/was an Italian citizen at the time of birth) – see point 1
2. through marriage to an Italian citizen – see point 2
3. by re-acquisition (for former Italian citizens only) – see point 3

1. DETERMINING CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT

Italian citizenship can be acquired by descent at the time of one's birth, as long as one parent was an Italian citizen at the time. Due to previous laws in force before the formation of the Italian Republic **women can only transmit citizenship to children born after 1 January 1948**. Prior to this date, only fathers could transmit the Italian citizenship.

Any claim for Italian citizenship must be supported by documentary evidence. Once the relevant documents have been presented to this Consulate, they will be forwarded to the competent Italian Municipality for registration. Therefore a waiting period between 2 and 4 weeks should be expected.

As of **8 July 2014**, according to the Italian law (art. 5-bis of the D.L. 24.04.2014, n. 66, and the act n. 89 of 25.06.2014) every application for the recognition of Italian citizenship by descent (*jure sanguinis*) is subject to a non-refundable administrative fee (irrespective of the outcome) of 300 EUR, **payable with cash in Australian dollars or via eftpos debit/savings card, we do not accept credit cards**, please note that there will be a bank fee of 0,25 cents per transaction via eftpos. This fee only applies to adult applicants (18+) and must be paid on the day of lodgement.

2. ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP THROUGH MARRIAGE

Case 1: Foreign women who married an Italian citizen prior to 27 April 1983, **automatically acquired Italian citizenship on the date of marriage**. An original copy of the woman's birth certificate is required (please note an original copy of the marriage certificate may be required). Please refer to the "[How To – Certificate Registration](#)" leaflet for further information.

Case 2: Spouses of Italian citizens residing abroad can apply for Italian citizenship after 3 years of marriage (or 1.5 years if they have children (Further details may be found in the "[How To – Naturalization Through Marriage](#)" leaflet).

3. REACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP

Re-acquisition may happen **after one year of legal residence in Italy**, or it can happen in a **shorter time frame** if one decides to **reside in Italy** for this purpose for several weeks. Once in Italy, one must register as a resident in an Italian Municipality of choice and submit the citizenship request to the Mayor of that Municipality (Comune). Further details may be found in the "[How To – Reacquisition of Italian Citizenship](#)" leaflet.

PLEASE NOTE

Under Italian law, children who were **naturalized** Australian citizens along with their parents prior to 16 August 1992, **lost their Italian citizenship** at the time. Please note that before **8 March 1975 adulthood in Italy was reached at the age of 21; after this date, it changed to 18**.

After 16 August 1992, Italian citizens who acquire another citizenship, do not lose their Italian citizenship.

ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT Step by Step Guide

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PRE-REQUISITES

The Consulate of Italy in Adelaide is responsible for processing citizenship applications for SA residents **ONLY**. Proof of residence is required upon submitting the application.

STEP 1: ONLINE BOOKING

To book your appointment: [Book Online](#)

STEP 2: WHAT TO BRING AT THE CONSULATE

- Documentary evidence of citizenship of the main applicant's parent/ancestor (old Italian Passport, Italian certificates, and any other documentation providing proof of the parent/ancestor Italian Citizenship).
- If the parent/ancestor is/was not Australian, original and copy of the Australian visa if issued after 16 August 1992 or **Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status** (from the Australian Department of Immigration).
- Simple copies of all birth/marriage/death/change of name/divorce certificates of all applicants, starting from the ancestor.
- Simple copies of all applicants' ID (driver licence, passport).
- Completed citizenship application form (provided at the appointment)
- Fees of 300 EUR, for applicants (18+) and must be paid on the day of lodging

Please Note: If you don't have all the required documents on the day of your appointment, please attend our offices anyway to allow us to assist you with the application process.

For any question or other enquiry on Italian citizenship applications please write to consolato.adelaide@esteri.it quoting CITIZENSHIP ENQUIRY in the subject of the email.