



Consulate of Italy
Adelaide

Firma del Signor Eric
Paterson, reggente la R^a
Agenzia Consolare in Adelaide.

Consulate of Italy in Adelaide
50th Anniversary

Eric Paterson

Consulate of Italy in Adelaide 50th Anniversary

Sources:

Archivio Storico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri

Portale storico della Presidenza della Repubblica

Australian War Memorial Website

Trove - The National Library of Australia, Newspapers and Gazettes Home

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FOREWORD

Her Excellency the Honourable Frances Adamson AC - Governor of South Australia

The Consulate of Italy in Adelaide plays a pivotal role in the enduring relationship between South Australia and Italy, based on shared values, mutual respect, and, perhaps most importantly, the passion and commitment of the Italian community itself.

The Italian community is prominent, influential, and well respected, and has contributed greatly to the economic, social and cultural advancement of our state. Indeed, as in other parts of Australia, it has played an important role in shaping Australia's contemporary cultural identity.

A 50th anniversary is marked by what has gone before, both through entities that predated the establishment of the Consulate proper, and then through the Consulate itself. Since its establishment, the Consulate has supported and enhanced cultural, diplomatic, and economic connections, strengthening not only the Italian community in Adelaide but, through them, the South Australian community at large.

And as the Italian community has grown and the migration pattern evolved, so too has the Consulate adapted. Originally providing guidance and welcome to post-war migrants navigating the challenges of a new land, the Consulate expanded its role to promote culture, language, economic ties and investment opportunities in response to the needs of young professional migrants and generations of Australian-born Italians.

This booklet captures the milestones, the prominent events and the people who have steered the Consulate's mission and is a valuable record of how the Consulate has enhanced the connections between our two nations.

Congratulations!



FOREWORD

His Excellency Mr. Nicola Lener - Ambassador of Italy to Australia

It is my great pleasure to welcome the publication of this booklet, marking the 50th anniversary of the Consulate of Italy in Adelaide. This important milestone reflects not only the Consulate's rich history, but also the strong and enduring ties between Italy and South Australia.

Since the arrival of the first consular agents in the late 19th century, the Consulate has served as a key point of reference for a rapidly growing Italian community, providing support and assistance. Over time, its role has evolved, with an increasing focus on strengthening economic and cultural relations between Italy and South Australia, as well as enhancing cooperation in science and innovation.

In pursuing these goals, the Consulate draws on the strength of a dynamic community of Italian and Italian-Australian business leaders, academics, and professionals. Their contributions have been, and continue to be, a driving force behind the remarkable development of South Australia over recent decades.

This booklet therefore illustrates the evolution of the Consulate's role alongside the growth of both the Italian community and the broader South Australian society, highlighting its enduring function as an institutional bridge connecting South Australia with Italy.

With my best wishes for continued success.

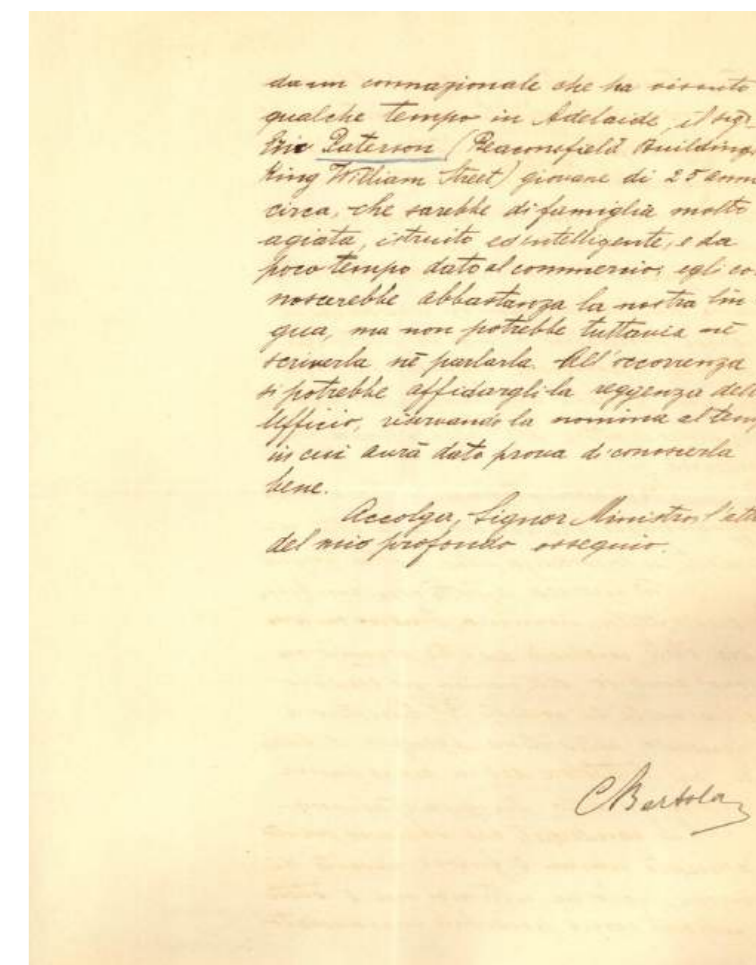
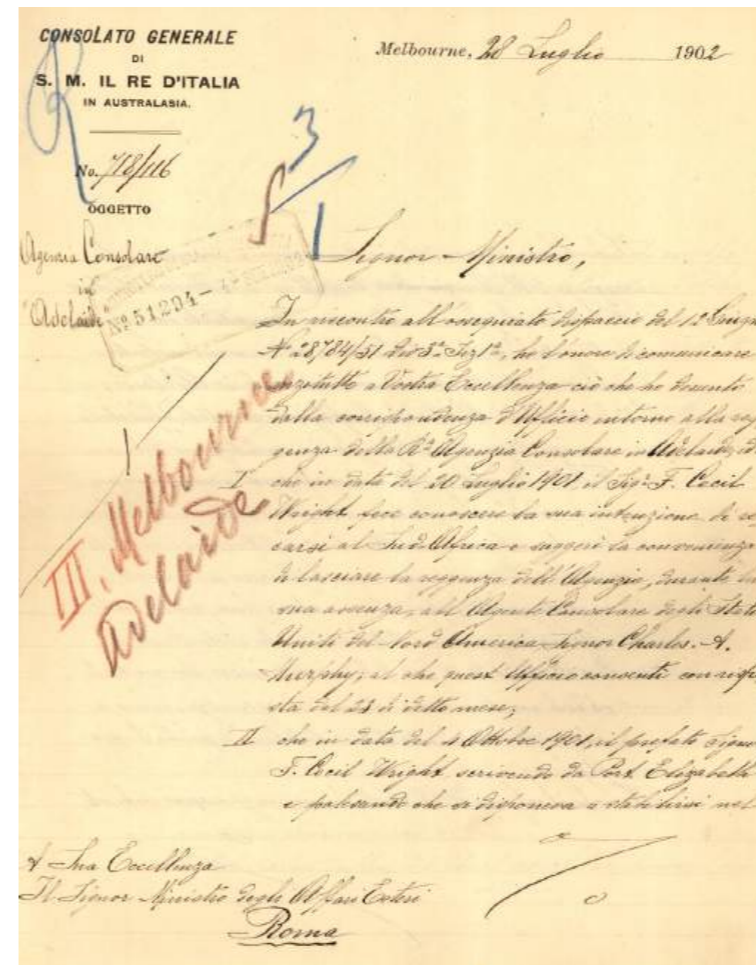


HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

From the late 19th century to 1952 - Consular Agency

Since the 19th century, relations between Italy and South Australia, particularly in the areas of economic and migratory matters, were overseen by a consular agency, which employed consular agents to represent Italy's interests. Starting in 1883, archival records provide a valuable insight into this period, documenting the names of the agents who served on Italy's behalf.

These records also preserve the correspondence between the Kingdom of Italy and the Consulate General in Melbourne, where the suitability of potential agents was carefully discussed and evaluated. Initially, the position was not limited to Italian citizens; it was open to foreigners who were proficient in the Italian language or had strong connections with Italy, especially of an economic nature.



28 July 1902 ► Consular Agent Mr. Federico (Cecil F.) Wright submitted his resignation and formal procedures were initiated to appoint his successor.



III. Melbourne Adelaide

17 Novembre 1909.

MINISTERO DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
N. 5406 - 12 DIC 1909

Consolato d'Italia

1628
301

In obbedienza al dispaccio dell'N.V. notato a margine, il signor Ministro, nella sua qualità di reggente questo R. Consolato, nominava, nella prima metà del settembre 1907, il signor Eric S. Paterson a reggere la R. Agenzia Consolare in Adelaide, in sostituzione del defunto Agente C.A. Murphy.

La nomina era fatta in via provvisoria, per dar tempo di provvedere definitivamente a una persona di un nazionale, e di altri che avessero buona conoscenza della nostra lingua.

Il primo di questi considerati è da metter subito da parte, perché un nazionale capace di reggere una Agenzia Consolare non si trova in Adelaide, e, quanto al secondo, credo possa vantare abbastanza bene soddisfatto con la conferma del signor Paterson, che ha viaggiato parecchio in Italia, che ha una qualche conoscenza del nostro idioma, e che è volentoso di perfezionarsi in esso; e non si incoraggiare se da reggente verrà promosso a titolare.

Quanto all'andamento dell'Agenzia, per ciò

A.S.M. IL MINISTRO
DEGLI AFFARI ESTERI
Dir. Gen. degli Affari Generali.
ROMA.

che se ne può giudicare di qui, non dà luogo ad alcun rimprovero, anzi dirò che gli affari vi sono trattati con singolare prontezza, e che tutte le informazioni richieste sono fornite con grande cura, e riescono, in via generale, esaurienti.

Sulle qualità personali del Paterson non ho bisogno di far ritorno se non per confermare le informazioni già fornite a codesto superiore Ministero dal mio predecessore. Egli ha un'ottima situazione personale, ma la sua nomina ad Agente lo porrà, di fronte alla autorità, in posizione di ancora meglio soddisfare al suo compito.

Sarà grato all'N.V. se vorrà accogliere benignamente questa mia proposta, ed autorizzarmi alla definitiva conferma del Sig. Paterson al posto di Agente Consolare d'Italia per il South Australia.

Vo' me gradire, Eccellenza, gli atti della mia profonda osservanza,

IL V. CONSOLE GENERALE,
Luigi Amelio

17 November 1909 ► Following the passing of the previous Consular Agent, Mr. Charles Murphy, Mr. Eric S. Paterson was appointed as his successor.



R. Prefettura della Provincia di Alessandria

2270 - Divisione Gab. 15 Novembre 1926 192

Risposta a nota Allegati N. 12.10.1926 N° 18745/154

OGGETTO - Informazioni sul Signor Rag. Giuseppe Amerio.

Riservata Ufficio Personale

20 NOV 1926

On.le Ministero degli Affari Esteri
Direzione Generale degli Affari Generali
(Ufficio Personale)
ROMA

Il Rag. Giuseppe Amerio fu Gastano e di Palazzo Luigia nato a San Marzano Oliveto il 2 marzo 1895 risulta di buona condotta morale e politica.

In un primo tempo appartenne al partito popolare, ma poi fu tra i primi ad iscriversi al Fascio di Combattimento e nelle elezioni comunali del 1923 fu tra gli eletti fascisti e nominato assessore.

Egli con la semplice licenza elementare fu supplente postale della Ricevitoria di San Marzano dal 21 Dicembre 1913 al 22.11.1919 e nello stesso tempo fu di valido aiuto alla madre vecchia, nel servizio di procaccia postale del comune.

Durante la guerra fu militare di truppe nel Genio telegrafisti.

Animato di buona volontà, studioso, da solo, presso maestri locali, riuscendo a diplomarsi in Ragioneria nel 1923.

La famiglia è povera. Sua padre era procaccia postale, servizio compiuto fino alla morte e poi continuato dalla moglie, che, essendo vecchia, presentemente si fa aiutare da una figlia.

I motivi dell'espatrio vanno ricercati nel bisogno di

15 - 22 November 1926 ► Following the resignation of the Consular Agent Mr. Eric S. Paterson, Mr. Giuseppe Amerio was appointed as his successor.

30. XI 1926

Ministero degli Affari Esteri

TELESPRESSO N. 21245

Indirizzo a

Perm. *III. Melbourne Adelaide*

R. Consolato Generale
Melbourne

Roma, add. 22 NOVEMBRE 1926

OGGETTO: R. Agenzia Consolare in Adelaide.
Riferimento: suo rapporto N. 415/11 del 31 agosto s.
Note: Secondo le norme in vigore R.S. Taverna, prima di procedere alla definitiva nomina del Signor Giuseppe Amerio a R. Agente Consolare in Adelaide, che pure ha avuto appoggio di questo R. Consolato, si vuole sarebbe dovuto scegliere nel Regno le persone di cui si parla e prima di nominare costoro che le fossero proposte alle R.R. Agenzie Consolari, si sono per un periodo di almeno un anno nominato solennemente reggenti: solo dopo tale periodo di provvisorio esperimento, confermate per titoli del posto, ed ogni modo questi R. Agenti, insieme le provvisorie informazioni fornite dalla R. Prefettura in Alessandria sul conto del Signor Amerio, prende atto della sua nomina a titolare della R. Agenzia Consolare in Adelaide. Colta l'occasione del prossimo giuramento R.S. dovrà inviare la firma del Signor Amerio in duplice esemplare.

Quanto alla nomina di accertarsi al titolare uscente Signor Paterson, R.S. dovrà far presente che questo R. Agenti, non ostante il suo vivo desiderio di potergli manifestare nel mondo la propria riconoscenza per l'opera prestata a vantaggio del R. Consolato, è volente di non potergli poterlo fare visto che il Signor Amerio ha



Italian Consulate Here Closes Its Doors

Da Oggi in Poi R. Consolato Chiuso—From today onward the Royal Consulate is closed.

This notice in Italian was pinned to the door of the Italian Vice-Consul's office in Currie street today as a member of the consular staff, with a number of documents under his arm, left with military authorities.

Outside, a big brass plate, with the name "Royal Italian Vice-Consulate," still remained in position.

While walking across Currie street to the military car the Italian consular official and two military men passed two street musicians, who sized the position up in a second, and loudly played the French National Anthem.

During last night and today Italians seized in Adelaide and country centres were brought to the city and placed under arrest with countrymen who were picked up in dramatic raids early yesterday. They will probably remain here until shifted interstate to a central internment camp.

There were several Italian gardeners missing at the fruit market early today. Special constables sworn in recently were active to ensure that trading was carried out in an orderly manner. Britons were asked to operate without causing any trouble, as many of the Italian gardeners were naturalised and loyal.

The Deputy Director of Postal Services (Mr. Arnold) said today that telephone calls would be supervised to prevent any being carried on in a foreign language. Offenders would be given

a warning and, if it were not heeded, the call disconnected.

Concerning overseas air mail, Mr. Arnold said that as no official advice had yet been received of interruption to the services, today's mail was sent to Darwin as usual. This will be continued until further advice is to hand.

An Italian flag in Tattersalls Club has been taken down. This was presented to the club during the last war, when flags of the Allies were auctioned to aid war funds.

D.F.C. AWARDED S.A. PILOT Praise for Courage

LONDON, June 11.—Flying-Officer L. R. Clisby, of Adelaide, who has been posted as missing, has been awarded the D.F.C.

The official announcement says that he displayed great courage on all occasions. One day in April he shot down a Messerschmidt when he and two other pilots attacked a formation of nine. The next day he destroyed another.

During May he was engaged in six combats, in which he shot down eight enemy planes.

Flying-Officer T. B. Fitzgerald, of Timaru, New Zealand, who carried out a daring and successful low-flying attack in the Sedan sector, has also been awarded the D.F.C. A few days after the Sedan attack he was wounded, but he made a forced landing and saved

11 June 1940. The day after Italy declared war, the Italian Consular Agency in Adelaide was closed.



11 June 1940. A circular consulate stamp bearing the words 'R' Agenzia Consolare d'Italia In Adelaide' ('Royal Italian Consular Agency in Adelaide') in reverse, encircling the coat of arms of the House of Savoy. The stamp was mounted on a rubber block attached to a plain wooden base. This item is one of a set of eleven consular authority and receipt stamps that were confiscated by police from the Italian Consular Agency in Currie Street, Adelaide, South Australia, on 11 June 1940, exactly the day after Italy declared war and shortly after the conclusion of the Dunkirk evacuations.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

From 1953 to 1960 - Establishment of the Vice Consulate of 2nd Category

In 1953, the Consular Agency was suppressed and replaced by a Vice Consulate of 2nd Category. During this period, the Vice Consulate primarily focused on managing the influx of migrants arriving from Italy. It played a vital role in providing substantial support to families upon their arrival, offering institutional assistance to help them settle permanently in South Australia. Post-war Italians migrated to Australia seeking employment opportunities that would provide economic security and a better future for their families. At the last of the pre-war censuses, 1933, there were 1,489 Italian-born in South Australia. In 1971, at the peak of Italian post-war settlement, South Australia had over 20 times that number, 32,428 Italian-born, amounting to 11% of Australia's total Italian-born population. The Vice Consulate played a crucial role in supporting these families as they sought housing and employment.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

From 1953 to 1960 - Establishment of the Vice Consulate of 2nd Category

14 April 1953. By Presidential Decree (DPR) No. 4539 of 9 December 1952, the Consular Agency in Adelaide was suppressed, and a Vice Consulate of 2nd Category was established, under the authority of the Consulate of Italy in Melbourne.

DECRETO DEL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA 9 dicembre 1952, n. 4539

Soppressione dell'Agenzia consolare di Adelaide (Australia) ed istituzione di un Vice consolato di 2ª categoria in Adelaide, alle dipendenze del Consolato d'Italia in Melbourne.

(GU n.92 del 21-4-1953)

Vigente al: 6-5-1953

IL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA

Visto il regio decreto 28 gennaio 1866, n. 2804;
Visto il regio decreto 7 giugno 1866, n. 2996;
Visto il decreto del Capo provvisorio dello Stato 5 agosto 1947, n. 878, e successive modificazioni;
Visto il decreto Ministeriale 15 marzo 1948, registrato alla Corte dei conti il 10 aprile 1948, registro n. 9, foglio 206, e successive modificazioni;
Sulla proposta del Ministro per gli affari esteri;

Decreta:
Art. 1.

L'Agenzia consolare di Adelaide (Australia) e' soppressa.

Art. 2.

E' istituito un Vice consolato di 2ª categoria in Adelaide alle dipendenze del Consolato d'Italia in Melbourne.

Il presente decreto, munito del sigillo dello Stato, sara' inserito nella Raccolta ufficiale delle leggi e dei decreti della Repubblica italiana. E' fatto obbligo a chiunque spetti di osservarlo e di farlo osservare.

Dato a Roma, addi' 9 dicembre 1952

EINAUDI

DE GASPERI

Visto, il Guardasigilli: ZOLI
Registrato alla Corte dei conti, addi' 14 aprile 1953
Atti del Governo, registro n. 76, foglio n. 24. - PALLA

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The departure of Italian migrants



"To Australia"



"From Reggio Calabria to Australia"



ELENA DOMENICA LUISA RUBEO

The first Italian woman to be appointed as Honorary Vice Consul

Special recognition is due to Mrs. Elena Domenica Luisa Rubeo, the first Italian woman to be appointed Honorary Vice Consul. She dedicated herself with unwavering commitment to the welfare of the Italian community in South Australia.

In 1952, she was appointed Italian Consular Agent for South Australia (Honorary Vice Consul from 1955), a position she held without remuneration until 1962. The consulate offices on Gilbert Terrace were moved to her home, allowing her to be available day and night. Elena Rubeo dedicated herself with renewed enthusiasm to the welfare of the Italian community. Describing herself as 'a self-appointed mother to them all', she helped new arrivals find work and housing, lent them money interest-free, served as their confidante and interpreter, and connected them with doctors and lawyers. She also visited those confined in prisons, hospitals, and asylums.

May 5, 1955.] THE SOUTH AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT GAZETTE. 1049

Chief Secretary's Department, Adelaide, 22nd April, 1955.
HIS Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor directs it to be notified that he has been pleased to recognize the appointment of Miss Elena Rubeo as Honorary Vice Consul for Italy at Adelaide.

By command,
C.S.O., 73/1940. A. LYELL McEWIN, Chief Secretary.



TELESPRESSO N. 487

Agenzia Consolare d'Italia
Adelaide

Indirizzo
CONSOLATO D'ITALIA
MELBOURNE

add. 17. 1952

Divisione
Capetto
Riferimento
Aut.

Emigranti assistiti - Loro dislocazione nel South Australia.-

Egr. Signor Console,

ho ritenuto opportuno farLe segnare su una carta topografica del South Australia, che allego, le varie localita' in cui sono dislocati i nostri commissari assistiti, segnando a fianco di ognuna il numero componente il gruppo. Ho il piacere di comunicarle che se, nei primi tempi, numerose ogni giorno affluivano le lettere con cui si chiedeva il mio intervento presso le locali autorita' australiane, attualmente tale corrispondenza si e' rarefatta, e cio' non ostante che e' tutti si sia esaurientemente risposto. Dato cio' e' poiche' non pochi sono gli emigranti che missierano la loro soddisfazione circa il lavoro ed il trattamento, debbo arguire che lentamente i nostri emigranti si stanno assuefacendo agli usi, costumi, clima e sistema di lavoro di questo Paese.

In attesa di vederLa qui in Adelaide, voglia gradire, signor Console, i miei piu' distinti saluti.

19 JUN 1952
848/3/I
A. Rubeo

CONSOLATO GENERALE D'ITALIA
MELBOURNE

5454
21 DEC 1961

Vice-Consolato d'Italia in Adelaide - Assunzione titolare.-
Telegr.n.12717 del 13/12/61 de

Si ha il pregio di trasmettere l'allegato c-
sposto, in cinque copie, circa l'attivita' e le
necessita' di questo Ufficio.

IL VICE-CONSOLE
(ELENA RUBEO)

Data la mole di lavoro, questo Ufficio non puo' essere affidato alla sola attivita' di un impiegato.

A tal proposito chiarisco che il dott. Corradini e' sempre stato coadiuvato da un'impiegata fissa, da me remunerata con f.15 la settimana.

Durante la mia assenza, per congedo, ai predetti dipendenti, ho aggiunto, un'altra impiegata tre giorni la settimana e con orario saltuario, un mio impiegato.

Per un'idea approssimativa del lavoro svolto da questo Ufficio durante l'anno che sta per chiudere, do alcuni dati: protocollo in partenza: 3600 - in arrivo: 1700 - passaporti (solo rinnovo) 490 - atti notariali: 400 - pensioni: 80 - arruolamenti: 60 - permessi militari: 190 - centinaia di certificati di esistenza in vita - spedizioni bastimenti: 30 - pratiche per infortuni sul lavoro: 40 - pratiche di successione: 15 - fascicoli d'archivio: 6551 - centinaia di certificati di naturalizzazione - centinaia di avvisi elettorali ecc.

Il numero dei commissari in questo Stato ammonta a circa 25.000 dei quali si rivolgono a questo Ufficio, in media circa 200 la settimana.

Concludendo, mi permetto suggerire l'assunzione della signora Augusta Guido che ha un'esperienza di oltre dieci anni d'impiego in Italia e che e' stata in questo Ufficio quattro anni. La stessa oltre ad essere una provetta dattilografa, parla e scrive correttamente la lingua inglese e parla il tedesco, il francese e l'ugoslavo. Attualmente sta rientrando dalla vacanza in Italia.

Per cio' che riguarda, infine, la nuova contabilita' ed i nuovi servizi, sara' necessario o che sia inviato qui un impiegato o che il dott. Corradini spenda qualche ora presso il Consolato Generale in Melbourne.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

From 1961 to 1975 - Establishment of the Vice Consulate of 1st Category

11 July 1961. By Presidential Decree (DPR) No. 556, the Vice Consulate of 2nd category in Adelaide was suppressed and the Vice Consulate of 1st category was established, under the authority of the Consulate of Italy in Melbourne.

DECRETO DEL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA 6 aprile 1961, n. 556

Soppressione del Vice consolato di seconda categoria in Adelaide (Australia) ed istituzione nella stessa localita' di un Vice consolato di prima categoria.
(GU n.175 del 17-7-1961)

Vigente al: 1-8-1961

IL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA

Visto il regio decreto 28 gennaio 1866, n. 2804;
Visto il regio decreto 7 giugno 1866, n. 2996;
Visto il decreto del Capo provvisorio dello Stato 18 aprile 1947, n. 266, e successive modificazioni;
Visto il decreto del Capo provvisorio dello Stato 5 agosto 1947, n. 278, e successive modificazioni;
Visto l'art. 2 della legge 4 gennaio 1951, n. 13;
Udito il parere del Consiglio di Stato;
Sentito il Consiglio dei Ministri;
Sulla proposta del Ministro per gli affari esteri, di concerto con il Ministro per il tesoro;

Decreto:
Art. 1.

Il Vice consolato di seconda categoria in Adelaide (Australia), alle dipendenze del Consolato generale in Melbourne, e' soppresso.

Art. 2.

E' istituito in Adelaide (Australia) un Vice consolato di prima categoria, alle dipendenze del Consolato generale in Melbourne.

Art. 3.

Il presente decreto ha effetto a decorrere dal giorno della sua pubblicazione nella Gazzetta Ufficiale.

Il presente decreto, munito del sigillo dello Stato, sara' inserito nella Raccolta ufficiale delle leggi e dei decreti della Repubblica italiana. E' fatto obbligo chiunque spetti di osservarlo e di farlo osservare.

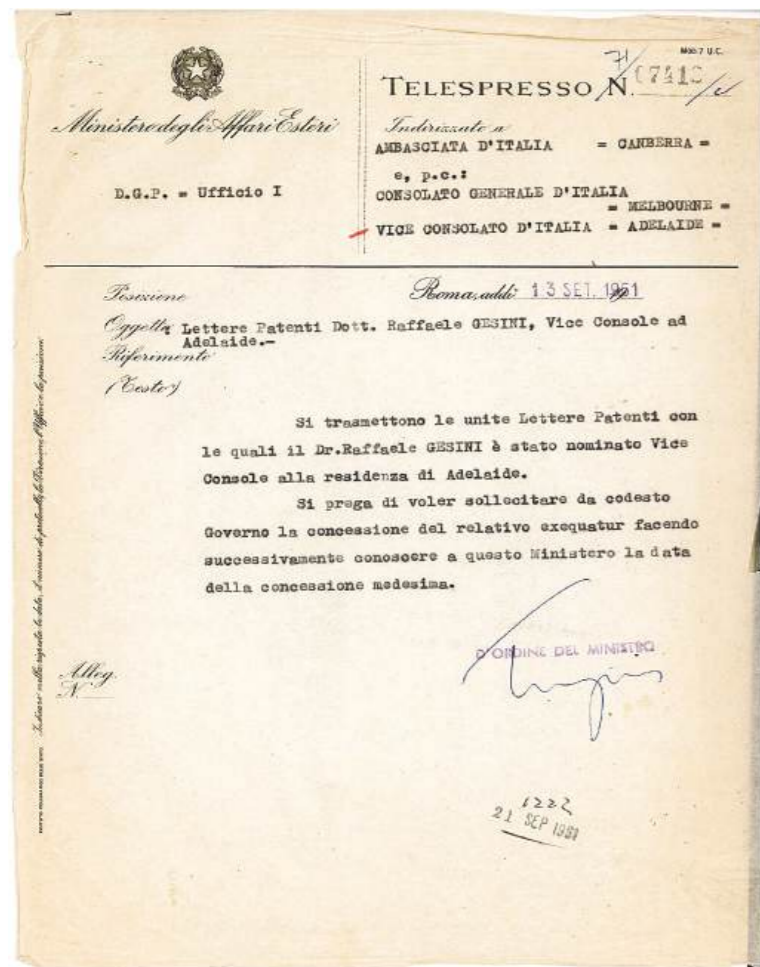
Data a Roma, addi' 6 aprile 1961

GRONCHI

FANFANI - SEGNI - TAVIANI

Visto, il Guardasigilli: GONELLA
Registrato alla Corte dei conti, addi' 11 luglio 1961
Atti del Governo, registro n. 137, foglio n. 87. - VILLA

19 June 1952 - 21 December 1961 ► Correspondence between Honorary Vice Consul Mrs. Elena Rubeo and the Consul General of Italy in Melbourne



1961 - Raffaele Gesini, the first Vice Consul of Italy to South Australia

13 September 1961. After the establishment of the Vice Consulate of 1st Category in Adelaide, diplomat Raffaele Gesini was appointed as the first Vice Consul.

Festival week

A TOUCH OF ITALY COMES TO ADELAIDE

ADELAIDE went 'Italian' for a week last month when the State's Italian community of about 40,000 held its first festival.

The Italian community—eager to share their heritage with Australians generally and to show the changes they had brought to the Australian scene in 20 years—held exhibitions of Italian bookwork, reproductions of works of the famous Italian masters, Italian knitwear, hair styles, hats, shoes, jewelry, food and wines, an anthology of Italian films, a concert of Italian music and an Italian country evening ('sagra').

To coincide with the opening of the festival, the Italian Vice-Consul in South Australia, Dr Fabio Migliorini, announced that the community would:

- endow a Chair of Italian at Adelaide's second university, the Flinders University of South Australia;
- build an Italian cultural and recreation centre in Adelaide at a cost of \$150,000.

Dr Migliorini said that, in addition, the Italian Government gradually would give 1,000 volumes of Italian books to the university library.

Teaching of Italian at the university would begin in 1970. He said the problem of teaching Italian in Australia had become evident since the visit to Australia of Italy's President Saragat last year.

'At that time, the authorities of Australia and Italy recognised and discussed the benefits of fostering cultural relations between the two countries and the development of the teaching of Italian throughout Australia', he said.

'The Italian Government, in helping towards the realisation of this programme, is not intending to follow a nationalistic policy, but is attempting to safeguard a cultural heritage.'

The new cultural and recreation centre—a two-storey building—will house a large lounge and clubroom, a restaurant and two bars, a billiards room, library offices and committee rooms.

Dr Migliorini said the centre was needed as a place where Italians could meet their fellow countrymen as well as their Australian friends.

It would also be a symbol of the economic and social progress of Italians in the South Australian community and would enable them to maintain a link with modern Italian cultural life.

The first secretary of the Italian Embassy in Canberra, Dr F. Grassi Orsini, who visited Adelaide for the festival, said the expansion of Italian cultural and literary facilities in South Australia was a direct result of the need for integration and a remedy for nostalgia.

The establishment of a chair of Italian and the building of an Italian cultural and recreation centre in Adelaide would help Australians and Italians to understand and accept one another, he said.

Below: The Italian Vice-Consul for South Australia, Dr Fabio Migliorini (left), Miss Anlio Angeli, 21, who migrated to Adelaide from Lucca six years ago, and Mr Guido Voldevich, who migrated from Zoro 18 years ago, admire some of the works of Italian goldsmiths at an exhibition of Italian jewellery during the Festival.



13 September 1961. After the establishment of the Vice Consulate of 1st Category in Adelaide, diplomat Raffaele Gesini was appointed as the first Vice Consul.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

From 1976 to present day - Establishment of the Consulate

Since 1976, the Consulate has undergone a significant transformation. Initially focused on assisting first generation Italian migrants, it has progressively shifted toward providing a wide range of consular services such as citizenship recognition, passports, civil register, notarial services, and declarations of value for study qualifications, while also issuing visas for Australians and other foreign nationals wishing to visit Italy for work, study, or tourism. In response to modern needs, the Consulate has embraced digital innovation, introducing online services, an online booking system, and efficient on the spot assistance for visitors.

At the same time, the Consulate has expanded its efforts to promote Italian culture, language, and economic relations. With the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, various initiatives and events have been launched to highlight Made in Italy.

The Consulate maintains strong connections with South Australian businesses, supporting the promotion of Italian exports. Events like Italian Design Day, Week of Italian language, Made in Italy Day, and visits to technological and research hubs boost awareness of Italy's culture and innovation. Additionally, the Week of Italian Cuisine in the World promotes Italy's newly recognized UNESCO culinary heritage and showcases the excellence of Italian food and produce.

1976 Establishment of the Consulate

DECRETO DEL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA 29 giugno 1975, n. 957

Elevazione del vice consolato di 1ª categoria in Adelaide (Australia) a consolato di 1ª categoria.

(GU n.96 del 12-4-1976)

Vigente al: 27-4-1976

IL PRESIDENTE DELLA REPUBBLICA

Visti gli articoli 30 e 42 del decreto del Presidente della Repubblica 5 gennaio 1967, n. 18, relativi all'ordinamento dell'Amministrazione degli affari esteri;

Sentito il parere del consiglio di amministrazione del Ministero degli affari esteri;

Sulla proposta del Ministro per gli affari esteri, di concerto con il Ministro per il tesoro;

Decreta:

Art. 1.

Il vice consolato di 1ª categoria in Adelaide (Australia) e' soppresso.

Art. 2.

E' istituito in Adelaide (Australia) un consolato di 1ª categoria con la seguente circoscrizione territoriale:
lo Stato dell'Australia meridionale.

Art. 3.

Il presente decreto ha decorrenza dalla data di pubblicazione nella Gazzetta Ufficiale.

Il presente decreto, munito del sigillo dello Stato, sara' inserito nella Raccolta ufficiale delle leggi e dei decreti della Repubblica italiana. E' fatto obbligo a chiunque spetti di osservarlo e di farlo osservare.

Dato a Roma, addi' 29 giugno 1975

LEONE

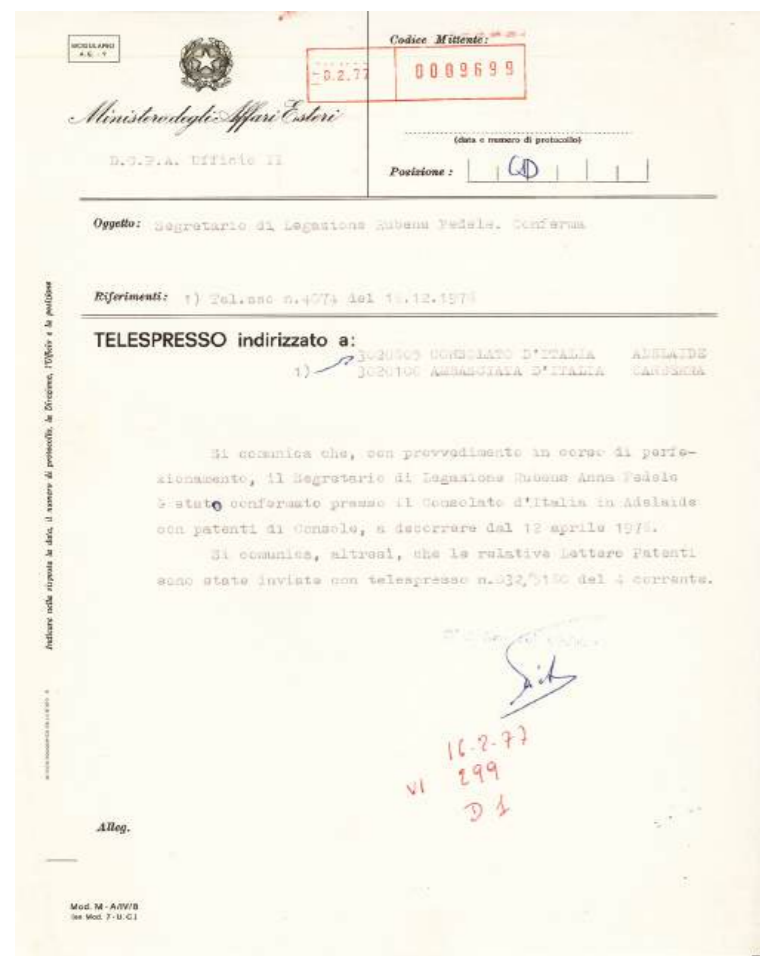
RUMOR - COLOMBO

Visto, il Guardasigilli: REALE

Registrato alla Corte dei conti, addi' 3 aprile 1976

Atti di Governo, registro n. 4, foglio n. 54

3 April 1976. By Presidential Decree (DPR) No. 957 of 29 June 1975, the Vice Consulate in Adelaide was suppressed, and the official Consulate was established, with jurisdiction over the State of South Australia.



RUBENS ANNA FEDELE

Confirmed as Consul of Italy to South Australia

12 April 1976. After the establishment of the Consulate of Italy in Adelaide, Vice Consul Rubens Anna Fedele was formally confirmed as Consul of Italy to South Australia.

1976 - President Francesco Cossiga - The first Italian Head of State to visit South Australia



13 October 1988. Francesco Cossiga made history as the first Italian Head of State to visit South Australia. His visit, timed to coincide with the nation's Bicentennial celebrations, marked the 200th anniversary of the arrival of the First Fleet of British convict ships at Sydney in 1788. Additionally, Cossiga's visit was significant as the first by an Italian Head of State to Australia in over two decades.

2017 - The Official Visit of the Minister of Foreign Affairs - the Hon. Angelino Alfano



27 - 28 November 2017. During his visit, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Angelino Alfano, announced the winner for the Fincantieri-Flinders-CETENA Maritime Innovation Challenge. This initiative was designed to foster international research collaboration and highlight cutting edge defence research on the global stage. Fincantieri, one of the largest shipbuilding groups in the world with 20 shipyards across, was actively participating in the Australian Government's SEA 5000 Future Frigates program. Having already established operations in Canberra and Adelaide, Fincantieri also revealed plans to issue a request for proposals aimed at awarding a contract to local companies for the construction of cruise ship blocks in South Australia.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

Promotion of the Italian language

In recent years, the Consulate has significantly strengthened its efforts to promote Italian culture, with a particular focus on the Italian language, one of the key vehicles for conveying Italy's rich cultural heritage globally. In South Australia, Italian is taught across various primary and secondary schools and universities, with courses also available at the Adelaide University and the Flinders University. In 2025, the Memorandum of Understanding on Education Cooperation between the Consulate of Italy in Adelaide and the Department for Education in South Australia was renewed. This agreement seeks to establish a collaborative framework to promote cultural and educational exchange between the two signatory parties.

Additionally, the Consulate supports Italian lecturers at both Adelaide and Flinders Universities, as well as the Italian Teaching Assistant Program for schools and the SAIA (Ente Gestore) Community School, which offers Italian language courses. The Consulate also collaborates closely with local organizations such as SAATI, the Dante Alighieri Society, and Comites to organize the annual Week of Italian Language in the World, further enhancing the visibility and appreciation of Italian language and culture. Since 2007, Flinders University has also presented the Consul's Book Award for Outstanding Achievement in Italian, recognizing excellence in the study of the language.

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON EDUCATION COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE CONSULATE OF ITALY IN ADELAIDE
AND
THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

The Consulate of Italy in Adelaide and the Department for Education in South Australia, hereinafter individually referred to as a "Participant" and jointly as "the Participants",

CONSIDERING the Memorandum of understanding between the Consulate of Italy and the Minister for Education, signed at Valley View Secondary School in Adelaide on 29 November 2021;

CONSIDERING the long history of cooperation and cultural ties between Italy and South Australia;

CONSIDERING the shared interest to cooperate on education with a specific focus on the Italian language and culture;

have reached the following understanding:

**ARTICLE 1
OBJECTIVE**

1. The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as "Memorandum") is to establish a collaborative framework aimed at promoting cultural and educational exchange and cooperation between the Participants.
2. The Participants intend to establish a common understanding of the shared education goals between Italy and South Australia and of the importance of developing global citizenship in South Australian students who embrace diversity with effective skills to live and work across cultures.
3. The Participants intend to explore opportunities to support South Australian schools, teachers and students to learn and understand the Italian language and culture.



Signed in *Adelaide* on *15/10/25* in two originals, each in the Italian and English languages, all texts being equally authentic.

FOR THE CONSULATE OF ITALY IN ADELAIDE

FOR THE DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - The Week of Italian language in the World

The Week of the Italian Language in the World (Settimana della Lingua Italiana nel Mondo), held annually in October for the past 25 years, is a global celebration of Italian culture and language. Organized by diplomatic and consular networks, the event features a rich program of conferences, educational workshops, and cultural performances to promote and honor Italy's linguistic heritage.



Samoda Silva, winner of the 2024 Consul's Book Award and the Consul of Italy, Ernesto Pianelli, presenting her with the award, during the 2024's Week of Italian language.



Artists from the State Opera SA, during the Week of Italian language.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - Exhibition



12 March 2021. "Twilight Skylines from Police Helicopters" a striking series of photographs by the acclaimed Italian photographer Massimo Sestini, winner of the World Press Photo 2015. Organized by the Italian Consulate in Adelaide, at the Convention Centre, the exhibition showcased Sestini's unique perspective on Italy's landscapes, captured from aboard Italian Police helicopters, including the Leonardo AW139 and Agusta-Bell AB212. Taken an hour after sunset or an hour before sunrise, these images reveal the country bathed in the enchanting light of twilight.



CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - State Opera SA



16 May 2024. The Consulate of Italy in South Australia and State Opera SA proudly joined forces to support emerging operatic talent. In a new collaborative initiative, the two organizations partnered to provide Italian language coaching to five young South Australian artists as part of their ongoing professional training.



10 November 2024. The concert "Passionate Puccini: Lovers, Butterflies and Sleepless Nights" commemorated the centenary of the legendary Italian composer Giacomo Puccini. The event was attended by distinguished guests, including the Governor of South Australia, H.E. Frances Adamson AC, and Ms Luisa Greco, Chair of the Multicultural Affairs Commission.

CULTURAL DIPLOMACY - Art and Culture



31 August 2025. The collaboration between the Consulate and State Opera SA continued also in 2025, highlighting the art of Bel Canto – literally “beautiful singing” – showcasing the masterworks of iconic Italian composers such as Bellini, Rossini, Donizetti, and others.



8 April 2025. The Consulate of Italy in Adelaide, in collaboration with the Art Gallery of South Australia, hosted a special presentation by Professor, Art Historian and Deputy Director of the Pinacoteca di Brera, Chiara Rostagno, exploring Leonardo da Vinci's Last Supper.

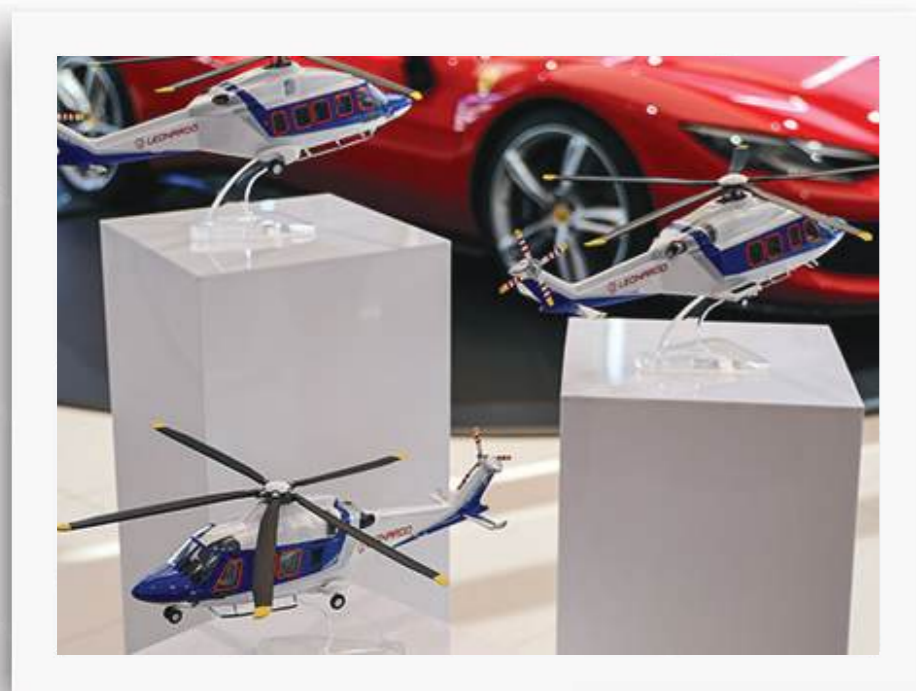
ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY

Trade relations and the promotion of Made in Italy

Despite the distance, the bond between South Australia and Italy remains strong, thanks to the lasting legacy of Italian emigration. This cultural connection is evident in the admiration Australians have for the creativity, sophistication, and authenticity of Made in Italy, particularly in design, craftsmanship, and cuisine. The influence of Italy is also reflected in the Italian System, which provides vital services to Italian citizens and businesses.

The Consulate takes great pride in organizing events that promote and support the export of Made in Italy brands, showcasing Italy's unparalleled contributions to design, fashion, cuisine, and more. Among these initiatives are high profile events such as the Italian Design Day, which highlights Italy's leadership in design and innovation, and the Made in Italy Day, celebrating the quality and excellence of Italian products. One of the most notable events is the Week of Italian Cuisine in the World, a global celebration that not only honors Italy's rich culinary traditions but also supports the promotion of Italian food culture as an integral part of Italy's identity. Through these events, the Consulate continues to enhance Italy's cultural presence and influence in South Australia and beyond, strengthening the deep-rooted connections between the two regions.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY - Italian Design Day



Italian Design Day - 2024

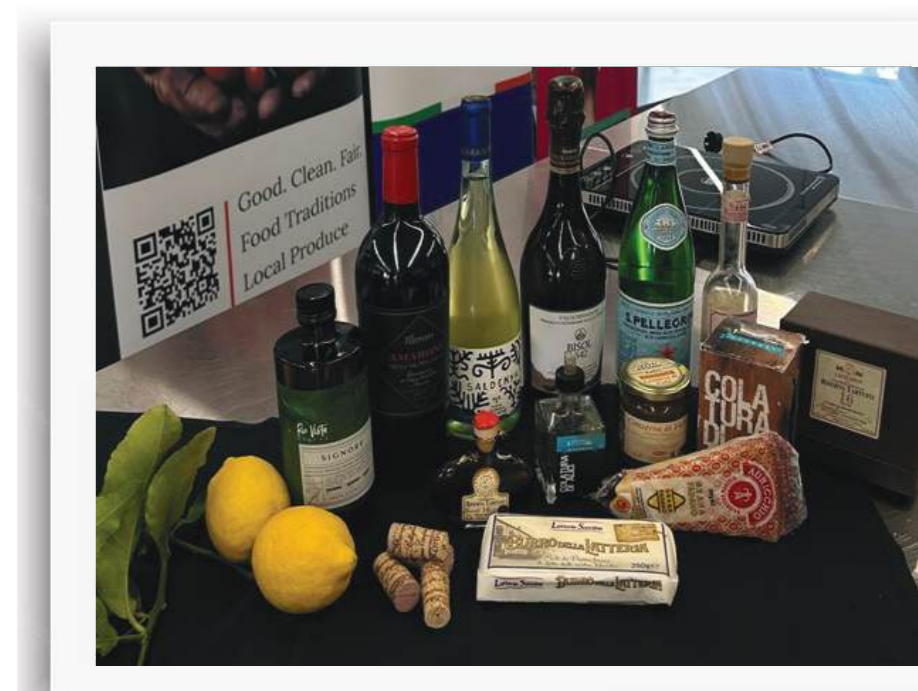


The Hon. Andrea Michaels MP, speaking at the Italian Design Day 2024.

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY - Week of Italian Cuisine in the World



First Week of Italian Cuisine in the World - 2016



Week of Italian Cuisine - 2024

ECONOMIC DIPLOMACY - Made in Italy Day

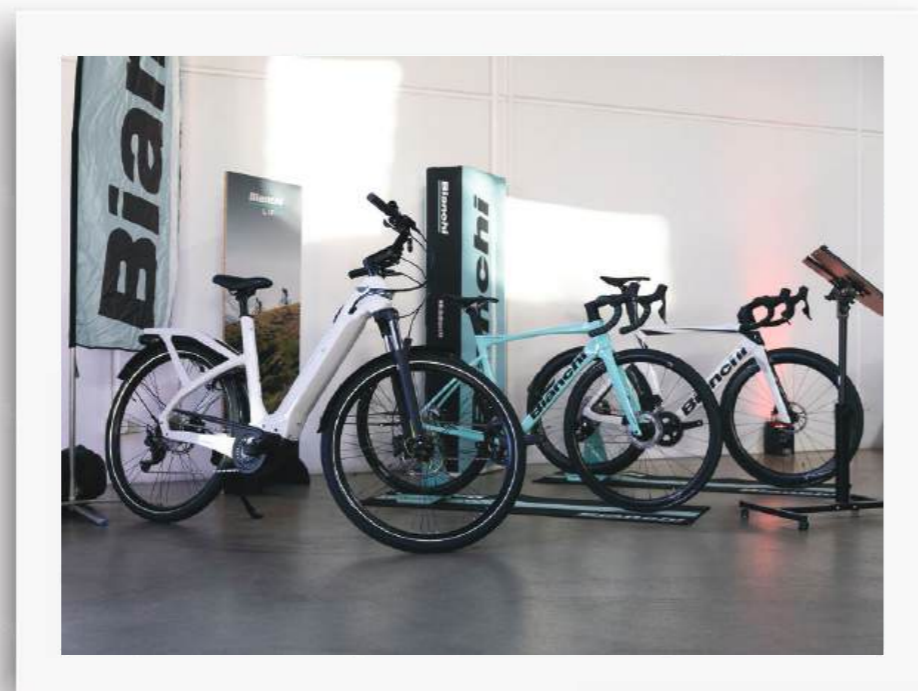


Made in Italy Day - 2025

POLITICAL RELATIONS

Between South Australia and the Consulate of Italy

Political relations between South Australia and Italy are part of the broader and longstanding bilateral ties between Australia and Italy, rooted in deep historical, cultural, and economic connections. The relationship between the Consulate of Italy in Adelaide and the Government of South Australia is strong and mutually beneficial, centered on supporting collaboration for Italian businesses and enterprises in the region. This ongoing dialogue spans various sectors, including research, science, space, and education. The Consulate and the Office of the Premier of South Australia work together to organize official events, such as the celebration of Italian National Day, further strengthening the ties between the two entities.



Made in Italy Day - 2025

POLITICAL RELATIONS between South Australia and the Consulate of Italy



02 June 2023. The Consul of Italy, Adriano Stendardo an the Premier of South Australia, Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, at the celebrations for Italian National Day.



02 June 2024. During the Italian National Day celebrations, the Pocket String Quartet delighted guests with a captivating performance under the direction of internationally renowned violinist Julian Ferraretto. The event also featured a special guest appearance by the Consul of Italy, Ernesto Pianelli, who performed the beloved Ennio Morricone classic Gabriel's Oboe on his soprano saxophone.

PARLIAMENTARY GROUP OF FRIENDS OF ITALY IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA



12 September 2024. The Consul of Italy Ernesto Pianelli inaugurated the Parliamentary Group of Friends of Italy within the South Australian Parliament, an initiative aimed at further strengthening ties and fostering closer cooperation between Italy and South Australia. The Consul extended his sincere gratitude to Senator Francesco Giacobbe, Hon. Vincent Tarzia MP, Leader of the Opposition, and Hon. Tony Piccolo MP for their invaluable support in this endeavor.



MR. ERNESTO PIANELLI

Consul of Italy to South Australia

From its 19th-century beginnings, the Italian Consulate in Adelaide has been more than an administrative office; it has been a source of guidance, reassurance, and connection for migrants from a distant homeland. Over the decades, it has evolved alongside the community it serves, acting as a bridge between Italy and South Australia, fostering dialogue, understanding, and a shared sense of belonging.

Today, the Consulate's work extends to cultural and economic diplomacy. Through events, educational initiatives, and collaborations, it celebrates and renews Italian culture while strengthening trade and investment ties, reflecting shared values of innovation, craftsmanship, and excellence.

Yet, beyond its formal functions, the enduring significance of the Consulate lies in its human dimension. It has been a constant presence through moments of challenge and celebration, accompanying individuals and families across generations. Its work reflects a deeper truth: that diplomacy is not only conducted between governments, but lived through people, relationships, and communities.

This booklet stands as a tribute to that legacy. It honours the dedication of those who have served within the Consulate, the resilience and contributions of the Italian community in South Australia, and the enduring friendship between Italy and South Australia.

A special mention and sincere thanks go to Dr. Aurora Scomparin, University of Milan student, for her diligent collaboration during her internship, and to Sara Potenza, Consul's Executive Assistant, for her careful review of the texts.



LIST OF ITALIAN CONSULAR AGENTS, VICE CONSULS AND CONSULS

Consular Agents

1883 - 1886	Giuseppe Gilberto Boothby
1887 - 1901	Federico (Cecil F.) Wright
1902 - 1907	Charles Murphy
1908 - 1926	Eric S. Paterson
1927 - 1940	Giuseppe Amerio
1940 - giugno 1940	Felice Rando

Honorary Vice Consuls

1952 - 1962 Elena Domenica Luisa Rubeo

Vice Consuls

1962 - 1966	Raffaele Gesini
1966 - 1969	Fabio Migliorini
1969 - 1971	Dorello Ferrari
1971 - 1975	Antonio Provenzano
1975 - 1976	Rubens Anna Fedele

Consuls of Italy to South Australia

1976 - 1980	Rubens Anna Fedele
1980 - 1983	Paolo Vincenzo Massa
1983 - 1986	Gianni Martini
1986 - 1990	Francesco De Conno
1991 - 1995	Francesco Azzarello
1995 - 1999	Roberto Colamine
1999 - 2003	Lorenzo Kluzer
2003 - 2007	Simone De Santi
2007 - 2010	Tommaso Coniglio
2010 - 2015	Orietta Borgia (Reggente)
2016 - 2019	Roberta Ronzitti
2020 - 2023	Adriano Stendardo
2023 -	Ernesto Pianelli



Consulate of Italy
Adelaide