



ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP General Information

Agg: 27/12/19

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 produced to this Consulate General, they will be forwarded to the competent Italian Municipality for registration. Therefore a waiting period between 2 and 8 weeks should be expected. Once the procedure has been concluded, applicants will be notified via email from one of our staff members.

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 in cash or Eftpos in Australian dollars**. This fee only applies to adults applicants (18+) and must be paid on the day of lodging.

2. ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP THROUGH MARRIAGE OR SAME-SEX DE FACTO RELATIONSHIP/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. Same-sex partners of Italian nationals who have registered their de facto or marriage in Italy can apply as well, after 3 years from the date of relationship/marriage celebration.

In all cases the relevant certificate must have been registered in Italy to go on with the application. Further details may be found in the "[How To – Naturalization Through Marriage](#)" leaflet.

3. REACQUIRING CITIZENSHIP

Re-acquisition is **automatic 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 a few 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

Important Note

Under Italian law, children who were **naturalized** Australian citizens along with their parents prior to 16 August 1992, **would lose 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.



Consolato Generale d'Italia – Sydney

ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP BY DESCENT

Step by Step Guide

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PRE-REQUISITES

The General Consulate of Italy in Sydney is competent for processing citizenship applications for NSW residents **ONLY** (Please note: The cities of Queanbeyan and Cooma are under the jurisdiction of the Embassy of Italy in Canberra). A proof of residence is required upon submitting the application.

Recognition of citizenship by descent can be lodged **ONLY** by Australian citizens resident of NSW and foreign nationals who are “permanent resident” of Australia, resident of NSW.

STEP 1: ONLINE BOOKING

Visit our website <http://www.conssydney.esteri.it> and follow the instructions to book an appointment for citizenship.

One appointment only must be booked all members of the same family, living at the same address. However, one “main applicant” must be chosen for the time of booking.

Please note that due to the strong demand there is a long queue for this service. The Consulate cannot accept applications out of the online appointment system, so applicants are suggested to check time by time if any earlier appointment has become available.

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 became Australian, **original and copy of the Australian Citizenship Certificate**;
- If the parent/ancestor is/was not Australian, **original and copy of the Australian visa or Certificate of Evidence of Resident Status (CERS)** if issued after 16 August 1992 or **VEVO - Visa Entitlement Verification Online** (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 license and passport);
- Completed citizenship form (see the “Forms” section of our website);
- As for the fee of this service and method of payment, please refer to our [Consular Fees webpage](#).

Please note: If you do not hold all required documents on the day of appointment you are kindly requested to attend our office anyway to allow us to assist you with the application process and check what documents are still missing in relation with your specific application.

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