

## ITALIAN CITIZENSHIP

**THE FOLLOWING FAQ REFLECT THE MOST COMMON CASES IN AUSTRALIA. EACH CASE, EVEN IF BASED ON GENERAL PRINCIPLES, COULD BE DIFFERENT. SOMETIMES THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS AND PARTICULAR RULES NOT MENTIONED IN THIS SECTION. PLEASE CONTACT THE NEAREST ITALIAN CONSULAR OFFICE TO OBTAIN MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR OWN CASE.**

**Q: How do I know if I am eligible for Italian citizenship?**

*A: Italian citizenship is based on the principle of **iure sanguinis**, by virtue of which a baby born TO an Italian father or mother is Italian. Any child born in Australia to an Italian parent is virtually an Italian citizen.*

**Q: My father (or my mother) was born in Italy and moved to Australia. They became an Australian citizen. Am I still eligible for Italian citizenship?**

*A: If your parent became an Australian citizen before your birth (and before 1992) he/she lost their Italian citizenship. Therefore you are not an Italian citizen. If they became Australian after 1992 they retained their Italian citizenship: therefore you are also Italian.*

**Q: My grandparents moved to Australia many years ago. My father was born in Australia. Am I eligible for Italian citizenship?**

*A: Citizenship transmission does not specify generation limits but it does not allow generation gaps. To be eligible for Italian citizenship you must prove that your father was Italian on his own because your grandfather did not acquire Australian citizenship before the birth of his son. You have to consider that, before the entry in force of the Italian Constitution (01.01.1948), Italian citizenship was transmitted only by the father.*

**Q: I was born in Italy and I moved to Australia with my parents when I was a child. My father became an Australian citizen while I was a minor. Am I still an Italian citizen?**

*A: If your father became an Australian citizen before 1992 unfortunately you would have lost your Italian citizenship. In fact, even if your name does not appear on the certificate of Australian citizenship of your father, you became an Australian citizen and, in accordance with the Italian law you lost your Italian citizenship.*

**Q: I married an Italian man. Am I eligible for Italian Citizenship?**

*A: If your marriage was celebrated up to 21.04.1983 you acquired Italian citizenship automatically by marriage.*

**Q: I lost my Italian citizenship because I acquired Australian citizenship before 1992. How can I reacquire Italian citizenship?**

*A: According to article N. 13 of Law No. 91/1992 former Italian citizens can reacquire Italian citizenship in two different ways:*

- a) after one year of legal and effective residence in Italy*
- b) upon a declaration at a Consular Office valid only if, within one year, you move your effective and legal residence to Italy.*

*In both cases the essential condition to reacquire Italian citizenship is the effective and legal residence in Italy which can be certified only by the Comune of residence in Italy.*

**Q: I am a dual Italian and Australian citizen. Does the possession of Italian citizenship affect my situation as an Australian citizen?**

*A: The possession of Italian citizenship by descent does not affect your rights as an Australian citizen.*

**Q: I married an Italian citizen. Can I apply for an Italian passport?**

*A.: Only women married to an Italian man before 21.04.1983 were granted Italian citizenship automatically by marriage and therefore entitled to hold an Italian passport.*

*Today to become an Italian citizen as a result of being married to an Italian citizen, the foreign husband/wife must apply for citizenship through the nearest Italian Consular Office in their city of residence, after three years from the date of the marriage if resident overseas or after six months if resident in Italy.*

*Italian citizenship by marriage is granted by Decree of the Minister of the Interior Affairs within approximately two years from the application.*