

# c.i.a.o. program



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## Italian Activity Groups

*Co.As.It.'s **c.i.a.o. Program** delivers culturally appropriate activities for Italians living in Residential Care*

A part of the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community (CALD) range of initiatives offered by Co.As.It.

# c.i.a.o. program

*What is the program and what are the benefits?*



The **c.i.a.o. program** provides a valuable link between the Italian seniors in residential care and the wider community. The **c.i.a.o. program** facilitators bring all the Italian residents together in a group setting - on site - to share morning tea, music and Italian cultural past-times. The program aims to provide activities that are an added feature to any mainstream facility.

Co.As.It. has provided valuable support services to residential facilities since 2005, by implementing the **c.i.a.o. program** for residents of Italian background. Our trained and qualified staff have a richness of life experience with many different linguistic and cultural competencies and above all, a genuine sense of caring about others.

The provision of the **c.i.a.o. program** is vitally important for Italian elderly because they often cannot engage with activities at the centre and consequently suffer isolation and marginalization. The **c.i.a.o. program** enriches the quality of life for elderly Italians who often cannot participate in the facility's diversion therapy activities because of lack of English language skills, cognitive impairment and cultural differences. It is encouraging to see that even those residents with dementia still show happiness and direct responses when they hear Italian voices, Italian music and smell Italian coffee.

The CIAO Program is a not for profit offering. Co.As.It. Community Services offers the two hour **c.i.a.o. program** for \$120 plus GST. It is exceptional value. The following pages outline the benefits of the program. If you would like more information about the **c.i.a.o. program** please do not hesitate to contact Sarina Campbell - [sarinac@coasit.asn.au](mailto:sarinac@coasit.asn.au).

*Let's work together to achieve enriching advanced outcomes for residents and providing a high quality service.*

# c.cultural

*Culture plays a significant part in the lives of residents from a CALD background.  
Our expertise connects residents with their culture.*



- The program offers bilingual facilitators fluent in Italian and English;
- Culturally and linguistically significant activities are delivered in Italian;
- Cultural and age appropriate activities;
- Celebrate culturally significant Italian events such as "Carnevale" and "Italian National Day";
- Family participation is encouraged.



# i.talian

*Culturally specific Italian traditions can enliven memories and connections for residents with an Italian background.*



- Italian word games;
- Italian music and YouTube videos;
- Opportunity to converse in Italian;
- Activities with an Italian theme;
- Freshly brewed espresso;
- Italian discussion groups;
- Italian traditional lunch menus (where possible).





# a.ctivity

*Culturally specific Italian traditions and activities can enliven memories and connections for residents with an Italian background.*



- Playing Italian card games;
- Playing Italian bingo - "tombola";
- Playing 10 pin bowls - "bocce";
- Highlight regions and traditions e.g. regional costumes activity;
- Photo book activities;
- Hand-eye coordination exercises;
- Activities that reflect cultural celebrations e.g. mask making for "Carnevale".



# o.pportunity

*There are significant benefits to the resident and the facility when providing culturally specific activities.*



- An opportunity for residents to converse in Italian.
- The program helps bridge the gap between diversion therapist activities and residents with a CALD background;
- The program nurtures a sense of well-being and belonging for residents with a CALD background;
- The program equips facilities with an integration strategy and caters to cultural diversity;
- The program can help expand a facility's range of offerings to residents from an Italian background;
- Contact us today to help you create community based cultural connections.

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