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Title:
Speech notes at Italian Catholic Association ball

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BY BIRTH AND MIGRATION ITALY HAS SUPPLIED ONE IN TWENTYSIX
OF AUSTRALIA'S. ITALIAN BORN OR DESCENDED AUSTRALIANS ACCOUNT FOR
500,000 OF OUR 13 MILLION POPULATION.

AND THIS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED MAINLY SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR
TWO — THOUGH, OF COURSE, THE ITALIAN TRADITION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA
IS MUCH OLDER THAN THAT.

THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT ITALIANS HAVE BEEN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL
OF THE VARIOUS MIGRANT GROUPS OUTSTANDING IN ACHIEVEMENT AS
INDIVIDUALS AND AS A DISTINCTIVE, INTEGRATED COMMUNITY.

WHETHER AS BUSINESSMEN, FARMERS, INDUSTRIAL WORKERS? PROFESSIONAL
PEOPLE AND SHOPKEEPERS, ITALIANS HAVE LITERALLY CHANGED THE FACE OF
SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

SUCCESS HAS BEEN CULTURAL AS WELL AS MATERIAL. I'M DELIGHTED
THAT FLINDERS IN ONE OF THE THREE ~~XXXX~~ AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES WITH
A CHAIR OF ITALIAN STUDIES. (RECOGNITION IS TWO-WAY; IT'S NOWHERE
NEARLY AS WELL KNOWN THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF VENICE HAS A CHAIR OF
AUSTRALIAN LITERATURE).

— 2 —

NOWHERE IS THE ITALIAN CAPACITY FOR SHEER HARD WORK AND FLAIR
FOR THE CREATIVE BETTER SHOWN THAN IN THE FASHION AND TOURISM
RELATED INDUSTRIES WHERE ITALIAN BORN OR DESCENDED SOUTH AUSTRALIANS
ARE REALLY SHOWING THE WAY.

I HOPE THAT FOR AS LONG AS THERE IS A MIGRATION PROGRAMME IN
AUSTRALIA THAT A VERY SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF NEWCOMERS WILL BE FROM
ITALY. CERTAINLY THE STATE GOVERNMENT IS ANXIOUS TO GET THEM AND
TO HELP THEM TO SETTLE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA .

TO ENSURE THAT ITALIANS NOT YET FULLY FLUENT IN ENGLISH HAVE
THE MAXIMUM OPPORTUNITY TO SETTLE WE'VE LAUNCHED A NEW INTERPRETER
SERVICE SO THAT ANY DEALINGS WITH STATE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS CAN,
IF WISHED, BE IN THE HOME LANGUAGE INCLUDING THE TAKING OF DRIVING
LICENCE TESTS AND DEALINGS WITH BODIES SUCH AS THE BUILDERS'
LICENSING BOARD.