

Success Story: Overcoming "Red Tape" for a Registry Office Wedding

Client: Marco D. (Italian Citizen)

Document: Certificato di Stato Libero (Certificate of Free Status)

Language: Italian → English

Requirement: Official BDM (Births, Deaths & Marriages)
Acceptance

Provider: Australian Translation Services



The Perfect Plan

Marco and his Australian partner, Sarah, had secured a coveted Friday afternoon slot at the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths, and Marriages. As an Italian citizen looking to marry in Australia, Marco was required to prove he was not currently married in his home country.

He had obtained his *Certificato di Stato Libero* from his local municipality in Italy. Being proactive, Marco had the document translated by a local agency in Rome before flying to Melbourne, assuming this would be sufficient.

The Roadblock: The "NAATI" Rejection

During their pre-marriage interview—just 5 days before the ceremony—the Registry official rejected Marco's overseas translation.

The Issue

While the translation was accurate, it lacked **NAATI (National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters) certification**. In Australia, government bodies rarely accept translations performed abroad, even if they are notarised in the country of origin. They specifically require the stamp of a practitioner accredited *within* the Australian system.

Marco was left with a valid Italian document but no legal way to present it to the Australian authorities, putting their wedding date at immediate risk.



The Intervention by Australian Translation Services

Marco needed a provider who understood exactly what the Registry Office required. He found **Australian Translation Services** and submitted a digital scan of his original Italian certificate.

Unlike his previous experience, the process here was tailored for Australian compliance.

The Solution Process

01

Regulatory Expertise

The project manager immediately identified the document type. They assigned the task to a senior Italian translator who specialises in personal documentation.

02

Terminological Precision

The translator ensured that the Italian term "*Celibe*" was translated strictly as "*Bachelor*" or "*Never Married*" (depending on the specific context of the form) rather than the generic "*Single*," which can sometimes be ambiguous in legal contexts regarding divorce vs. never married status.

03

Mirror Formatting

The resulting English document was formatted to visually match the Italian original—keeping seals, signatures, and headers in the exact same positions. This allows Registry officials to easily compare the two documents side-by-side without confusion.

The Outcome

Australian Translation Services delivered the digitally certified PDF within 24 hours, with a hard copy following by post.

Immediate Acceptance

Marco presented the new NAATI-stamped document to the Registry Office the next morning. It was accepted instantly without further questions.

Wedding Saved

The ceremony proceeded on the scheduled Friday without delay.

Client Feedback

"I didn't realise that a translation done in Italy wouldn't work here. I was really stressed that we would lose our booking. The team at Australian Translation Services knew exactly what the Registry Office wanted. It was fast, professional, and most importantly, it worked."

Why This Matters

This case highlights a critical value proposition for **Australian Translation Services:**

Local Knowledge

Understanding that "accurate" isn't enough; the translation must hold specific **Australian accreditation (NAATI)** to be legally valid.

Government Compliance

Ensuring Single Status Certificates meet the strict criteria of the *Marriage Act 1961*.

Australian
Translation Services
is rated **Excellent**

Based on 144 reviews

