

# Cultural diversity

Australia is a culturally diverse nation. Cultural diversity describes the variety of cultural characteristics, such as language and religion, found within a community. Other cultural characteristics may be the foods people eat, the way they dress and the traditions they keep.

## Multiculturalism

Australia is a multicultural nation. Multiculturalism is based on accepting, respecting, appreciating and understanding different cultures. Multiculturalism celebrates cultural diversity.

## aussie fact

Advancing Australia Fairly is an essay-writing competition held each year. Students are invited to think about their contribution towards shaping Australia's future.



Australia's multiculturalism can be seen in its many types of restaurants.



## MY STORY

University student Abhishek Verma was born in Australia to parents of Indian origin. Abhishek says, 'the richness of Australia's multicultural heritage makes it one of the best countries in the world to live in.' In his winning essay for the Advancing Australia Fairly competition, Verma wrote, 'Perhaps the true nature of being Australian lies in the acknowledgment that despite the multicultural nature of Australian society, the two significant characteristics that unify this nation are generosity and standing up for the underdog.'

## Enriching Australia's culture

People from nations around the world bring unique skills, talents and experiences to Australia. The cultural practices they bring also enrich Australia's multicultural identity. Different foods, beliefs and pastimes contribute to Australia's cultural diversity.

### Food

Australians eat a combination of foods from many different cultures. New migrants have introduced new kinds of foods and many international foods are now common in Australia.

Country	Foods
Italy	pasta, risotto, olive oil, espresso coffee
Greece	calamari, souvlaki, gyros
South-East Asia	jasmine rice, noodles, laksa,
Mexico	enchiladas, salsa, guacamole
India	curries, basmati rice, pappadams
Japan	sushi, wasabi, pickled ginger, tofu
China	stir-fried dishes, dumplings, green tea, bok choy



## MY STORY

“My name is Husaam and I am twelve. At school I just get called Sam. I was born in Australia but all my other brothers and sisters were born in Lebanon. I love Lebanese food like tabouli, falafels and kebabs. Luckily, I still eat those things here in Australia because my mum cooks them at home.”

Sushi is a food that comes from Japanese culture.

