

COMMITTEE 2017—2018
CO OPTED
Local Government Liason Officer

NAME: **Rachele Tullio**
DOB 16th September 1959
Place of Birth Adelaide, Australia.
Province
Date of emigration:
Date of arrival in Australia
Australian citizen: Yes



Immigration experience:

Rachele Tullio (nee Racioppi) was born in 1959 to Raffaele Racioppi and Mariagrazia Polito. Both migrated to Australia in 1951 and 1954 respectively. My father was sponsored by his cousin, Antonio Racioppi, who had accompanied his sister to Australia as a proxy bride. Emilia was a 17 year old bride to Gennaro Russo; they had never met beforehand.

My father was the eldest son of 12 children and my mother was the 4th child of 6. She arrived in Australia in June 1954 and married my father in a borrowed wedding dress after 10 days. They had met each other as young people through working on a family share-farm: my father was 16 and my mother was 10.

For 2 years they lived in shared in rental accommodation in Adelaide until my brother was born in 1957. Until I was 12 years old, I grew up in Mile End, which was considered 'little Italy'. Most people in Gladstone Road came from another country.

I grew up in a large family, surrounded by multiple aunts and uncles. My father sponsored all of his family (except his sister, Luisa) to Australia as well as other relatives and friends. He purchased a large, run-down house in Mile End and housed many people. All of his siblings married other Italians and all were farewelled from my father's house. It was moment of pride for my parents when this happened.

I grew up a migrant child without English. However, I learnt very quickly the importance of learning and directed my focus to speaking and writing English. Eventually I became the official interpreter for my parents when letters arrived, especially my mother. Education was valued for my parents. I was encouraged to study and become a teacher. This has been a very rewarding outcome. My hope is that the migrant story is preserved in a safe place for future generations.