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MEDIA RELEASE

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Online Help for Italian Job Seekers

Co.As.It. has launched a new online tool that connects Italians seeking work with organisations in Australia. The tool, which forms part of the broader information service for visiting Italians called **Destinazione Downunder**, responds to the growing number of Italians coming to Australia on a *Working Holiday Visa*.

Online forms allow Australian organisations who are considering recruiting Italian workers, to upload their details to a company register that can be accessed by Italian job seekers. Conversely, Italian people who are looking for work can post their contact details and a summary of their experience on this website, enabling prospective employers to connect with them for work, volunteer or other business opportunities.

Over the last five years, over 10,000 Italians have come to these shores on the *Working Holiday Visa*. Significantly, the 3000+ visitors in 2008 represent an increase of 600% since 2003/4. The exponential growth in this particular sector shows no signs of abating.

"A growing number of Italian visitors approach us for assistance with looking for work here," said Co.As.It.'s Youth and Family Worker Nino Lo Giudice. "Many of these people are bi-lingual and they have a wealth of skills to offer local employers."

Destinazione Downunder provides basic legal and bureaucratic information necessary for an Italian to apply for, and comply with, a *Working Holiday Visa*. It also offers a general guide to life in Australia, with sections on employment, accommodation, the law, social and cultural life. Other features include a blog, podcasts and links to related websites.

Visitors and employers can log on to www.coasit.org.au/destinazedownunder and follow the links on the Employment section to access the forms. Users will then receive an email notification when their profile has been uploaded to the site.

Co.As.It. encourages Italian visitors and local employers to use **Destinazione Downunder** as a resource for both disseminating and obtaining information relevant to their products and services.

Co.As.It., which stands for Comitato Assistenza Italiani (Italian Association of Assistance) has been working for 41 years to enhance the quality of life of the Italian-Australian community in NSW, and to promote the Italian language and culture.

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