



## Guidelines for Use

RDNS is committed to the Multicultural Victoria Act 2004, which informs RDNS' policies to ensure people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds can enjoy access to RDNS' services equally, and are treated with respect and sensitivity.

RDNS' clients originate from 145 countries and speak 74 languages.

Each of RDNS' nursing centres provides services to local CALD communities, which vary markedly from centre to centre. Some centres may have large population groups from single ethnic backgrounds; others may have several groups of varying ethnicity.

RDNS recognises that effective communication is essential to the delivery of high quality services and communicates with people who speak little or no English with the use of accredited interpreters (on-site and telephone), the provision of translated materials, and wherever possible employing staff who can provide services to clients in a language other than English.

In addition, RDNS makes available this information sheet which comprises common words and phrases that might be used when a client from a non-English speaking background is experiencing an episode of care from RDNS.

Whilst this document was originally developed for use by RDNS staff, it may of use to you or people you know and as a result is freely available for download and use.

This document includes information on the following:

Introduction to the language

Topic 1: Greetings

Topic 2: Making / changing appointments

Topic 3: Medical problems

Topic 4: farewell

RDNS remains committed to providing the best possible care to all of our clients.



# Introduction to the Somali Alphabet

The Somali alphabet consists of two parts.

The vowels (a, e, i, o, u and their stressed equivalents = aa, ee, ii, oo, uu).

The Consonants: (b, t, j, x, kh, d, r, s, sh, dh, c, g, f, q, k, l, m, n, w, h, y).

Somali Letter	English Equivalent	Closest Pronunciation in English
a, aa	a. a'	ask., fat, bad, baboon
e, ee	e. e'	egg. Fair, dare
i, ii	i. i'	In, bin, keep, seek, seal,
o, oo	o., o'	ox., orange, hog, ball
u, uu	u. , u'	Uruqay, Europe, fool, you
b	b	bar
t	t	tattoo
j	j	jam
x	ha	ham
kh	k'	Khadijo, khaki
d	da	dab
r	r	rabbi
s	s	sad
sh	sh	shall
dh	d'	Dank, dapper
c	a'	Ali
g	g	gala
f	f	fat
q	qa	quack
k	k	Kangaroo, karate
l	l	lab
m	m	mam
n	n	nab
w	w	wag
h	h	ham
y	y	Yam, yank



## Topic 1: GREETINGS

English	Somali	Closest Pronunciation in English
Hello	Hellow	Hello
Good morning	Subax wanaagsan	Subah wanaagsan
Good afternoon	Galab wanaagsan	Galab wanaagsan
Good evening	fiid wanaagsan	fiid wanaagsan
Good night	Habeen wanaagsan	Habeen wanaagsan
What is your name?	Magacaa?	Maga'aa?
I am a nurse	Waxaan ahayn neersi Nurse = kalkaaliye in Somali but the Word nurse is more common among the Somali Speakers	Wahaan ahay nurse
My name is	Magacaygu waa	Maga'aygu waa
I am happy to see you again	Waxaan ku faraxsanahay inaan mar kale ku arko	Wahaan ku farah sanahay inaan mar kaale ku arko
No	maya	Maya
Yes	Haa	haa
Good	fiican	Fii'a'n
Do you understand me?	Ma i fahamtey?	Ma i fahamtey?
I understand	Waan ku fahmey	Waan ku fahmey
I don't understand you	Kuma fahmin	Kuma fahmin
Do you need an interpreter?	Turjumaan ma u baahan tahay?	Turjumaan ma u' baahan tahay?
I need an interpreter	Waxaan doonayaa turjumaan	Wahaan doonayaa turjumaan



## Topic 2: MAKING / CHANGING APPOINTMENTS

English	Somali	Closest Pronunciation in English
<b>What day can I visit you?</b>	Maalintee baan kuu imaan karaa?	Maalintee baan kuu imaan karaa?
<b>At what time?</b>	Iyo waqtigee?	Iyo waqtigee?
<b>Monday</b>	Isniinta	Isniinta
<b>Tuesday</b>	Talaadada	Talaadada
<b>Wednesday</b>	Arbacada	Arba'ada
<b>Thursday</b>	Khamiista	Khamiista
<b>Friday</b>	Jumcaha	Juma'ha
<b>Saturday</b>	Sabtida	Sabtida
<b>Sunday</b>	Axadda	Ahadda
<b>Morning</b>	Subaxdii	Subahdii
<b>Midday</b>	Duhurkii	Duhurkii
<b>Afternoon</b>	Galabtii	Galabtii
<b>Evening</b>	Fiidkii	Fiidkii
<b>At Night</b>	habeenkii	habeenkii
<b>I need to.....</b>	Waxaan doonayaa inaan.....	Wahaan doonayaa inaan.....
<b>Make a phone call</b>	Taleefoon waco	Taleefoon wa'o
<b>Speak.....</b>	La hadlo.....	La hadlo.....
<b>to your doctor</b>	Dhakhtarkaaga	Dhakhtarkaaga
<b>to your family</b>	Qoyskaaga	Qoyskaaga
<b>to your son</b>	Wiilkaaga	Wiilkaaga
<b>to your daughter</b>	Gabadhaada	Gabadhaada
<b>to your husband</b>	Ninkaaga	Ninkaaga
<b>to your wife</b>	Naagtaada	Naagtaada
<b>to your brother</b>	Hooyadaa	Hooyadaa
<b>to your sister</b>	walaashaa	walaashaa
<b>I need to change our visit time</b>	Waxaan doonayaa inaan baddalo waqtigeenii booqashada	Wahaan doonayaa inaan badalo wakhtigeenii booqashada



## Topic 3: MEDICAL PROBLEMS

English	Somali	Closest Pronunciation in English
How are you?	Sidee baad tahay?	Sidee baad tahay?
Where does it hurt?	Hakee ku xanuunaysa?	Hakee ku hanuunaysa?
The chemist will bring your tablets this afternoon / tomorrow	Ninka farmashiga ayaa keeni doona kiniiniyadaada galabta ama berrito	Ninka farmashiga ayaa keeni doona kiniiniyadaada galabta ama berrito
Show me the medications that you are taking	Itus daawooyinka aad qaadato	Itus daawooyinka aad khaadato
I want you to take your medicine	Waxaan doonayaa inaad qaadato daawooyinkaaga	Wahaan doonayaa inaad khaadato daawooyinkaaga
Can you get yourself some water?	Adigu biyaha ma soo qaadan kartaa?	Adigu biyaha ma soo khaadan kartaa?
I need to.....	Waxaan doonayaa inaan.....	Wahaan doonayaa inaan.....
Check your blood pressure	Jeegareeyo cadaadiska dhiigaaga	Jeegareeyo a'daadiska dhiigaaga
Take your pulse	Cabbiro garaaca wadnahaaga	A'bbiro garaa'a wadnahaaga
Change your dressing	Kaa baddalo dharkaaga	Kaa baddalo dharkaaga
Ambulance	ambalaaska	ambalaaska
Doctor	dhakhtarka	dhakhtarka
Medicine	daawada	daawada
Are you constipated?	Cloosha miyaa ku fadhida?	A'loosha miyaa ku fadhida?
Do you have diabetes?	Sonkrow miyaad qabtaa?	Sonkrow miyaad khabtaa?



## Topic 4: FAREWELL

English	Somali	Closest Pronunciation in English
You can ring me on .....	Waxaad iga soo wici kartaa .....	Wahaad iga soo wi'i kartaa .....
Thank you	mahadsanid	mahadsanid
I'm pleased to have met you	Waxaan ku faraxsanahay inaan kula kulmay	Wahaan ku farah sanahay inaan kula kulmay
You are welcome	Soo dhawow	Soo dhawow
Good - bye	nabadeey	nabadeey
Keep well	Caafimaad baan kuu rajaynayaa	A'aafimaad baan kuu rajaynayaa
Take care / All the best / Good luck	Salaama Alla / guul / khayr wacan	Salaama Alla / guul / khayr wa'an