

# "Mum" to her fans

**A**N Italian woman living in Sydney gets more than 2000 fan mail letters a week.

She is Mrs. **Dina** Gustin, of Bankstown, who has been affectionately nicknamed "mother of Australia's Italians" by her fans.

For the past six years Mrs. Gustin has conducted Italian programmes on a Sydney radio station.

And her mail box includes letters from Italian people throughout Australia, who ask her for advice on family, health or general immigration problems.

"With the help of the family and the radio station, I open all the letters, and write a reply to the most important ones, for help or send an answer over the air," she said.

Known simply as Lena to her listeners, Mrs. Gustin has three radio shows a week and broadcasts news about Italy every night.

On Monday night Lena has a two-hour social programme called *Arrivederci*



Mrs. Dina Gustin

Roma where she conducts a visit through an Italian city.

"I give news of the city, describe certain features of it, interview people and play music," she said.

Another two-hour Wednesday night program is *Carousel*, where Mrs. Gustin and her husband give social and local news, and translate some of the humorous stories which appear in daily newspapers.

"This is also a musical show," she said. "We relay birthday and special occasion calls."

*All Aboard* is a similar Saturday afternoon radio broadcast lasting 30 minutes.

Born in Trieste and a graduate in languages from the University in Venice, Mrs. Gustin came to Sydney with her husband and two children nine years ago.

She had no previous broadcasting experience, but in *House* wrote for the women's pages in the Italian newspaper *La Piamma*, a job she continued here for eight years.

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