

Submission to the Attorney-General's Department

Ongoing Professional Development for Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants and Guidelines on Conflict of Interest and Benefit to Business for Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants

DISCUSSION PAPER – NOVEMBER 2016

SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY 5pm FRIDAY, 13 JANUARY 2017

Your details

Name/organisation <i>(if you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of a contact person)</i>	Brian RICHARDSON National President Australian Federation of Civil Celebrants Inc. (AFCC)
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In meeting the Australian Government's commitment to enhancing the accessibility of published material, the Attorney-General's Department will only publish submissions to this website that have been submitted electronically. The following formats are preferred:

- Microsoft Word
- Rich Text Format (RTF)
- txt format.

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Would you prefer this submission to remain confidential? **NO**

Your submission

An extension of time to 3 February 2017 for associations to make submissions on the future of *Ongoing Professional Development* and a review of the guidelines on *Conflicts of Interest* and *Benefits to Business* for Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants aside, the AFCC National Committee has resolved NOT to make submissions on those matters.

When the November 2016 online survey was sent to all celebrants, we urged AFCC members to complete and submit their individual responses to the survey questionnaires. We understand many of them did so. Further, we invited members to contribute direct to us what we were hopeful might inform reasonable submissions on behalf of the AFCC, reflecting the opinions and views of the majority of our members.

The comments and opinions we received, however, were so diverse and, in some cases, so diametrically at odds with others that preparing consolidated submissions purporting to represent the views of our membership would be too difficult. Doing so, would surely alienate members who didn't share recommendations we might otherwise have made.

We would, instead, prefer to rely on a report of the analysis of individual survey responses received from celebrants and any recommendations made or to be made accordingly.

Thank you for the opportunity to make submissions.