

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>	Bruce Hicks
Contact details <i>(one or all of the following: postal address, email address or phone number)</i>	

Publication of submissions

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.

Please limit individual file size to less than 5MB. The department may create PDF documents from the above formats. To help the department satisfy the Australian Government web content accessibility guidelines, **please do not include** where possible any tables, diagrams or images (including your organisation's logo).

Hardcopy submissions received by mail or fax will still be considered by the department, however they will not be published on the website.

Confidentiality

Submissions received may be published on the Attorney-General's Department webpage, except where requests have been made to keep them confidential or where they relate to particular cases or personal information.

Would you prefer this submission to remain confidential? No

Your submission

It may not be helpful to change the 5 hours training requirement, as difficult as it may be for some celebrants to complete it. To have to study and stay abreast of regulation and current business practice is in everybody's interests. 5 hours is not a lot and ensures a level of rigour applied.

The current system allows for a small amount of leniency with regard to deadlines. It works well for me and I have a full time job.

With respect to the conflict of interest, the ability to include 'add ons' to a ceremony is very much at the discretion of the couple. Celebrants, provided that they are open and honest in their billing, should be able to recoup costs on a user pay basis and couples should be offered choice. This could be for a whole range of things in much the same way as funeral directors operate. Option 3 would assist celebrants create viable businesses.