

# 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

<b>Name/organisation</b> <i>(if you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of a contact person)</i>	Carmen Rae
<b>Contact details</b> <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.

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## Your submission

I believe that it is necessary for celebrants to do 5 hours of OPD per year. It might be useful if the training providers sent out the agenda for the dates they are advertising as well as the location and include the compulsory information that needs to be conveyed to the celebrants and perhaps select additional components to the training for selection by the celebrant eg. how to market your business successfully, A refresher on how to fill in forms correctly etc.

A marriage celebrant should be permitted to provide and sell a wide range of additional products and services to marrying couples, including products and services which are not directly linked to the role of a marriage celebrant in solemnising the marriage, such as:

- venue hire
- master of ceremonies
- wedding planning
- photography
- hair & make-up
- catering services
- floral arrangements
- hire services (eg. chairs, aisle runners, decorations, archways), and
- car hire.

This would benefit the people getting married as they don't have to run around and deal with so many providers for their wedding.

This in turn would also perhaps allow the Celebrant to actually start building their businesses as at this stage most celebrants can only do weddings part time as there are not enough weddings to make a full time income from it.

A new trend in weddings lately is for people getting married overseas in Fiji, New Zealand, Vanuatu and Thailand. This is now more competition for celebrants as there are less people getting married in Australia

Perhaps the Attorney General can restrict the number of new celebrants in the interim in view of the competition.