

# 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>	Douglas Wenn
<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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## Confidentiality

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Would you prefer this submission to remain confidential? No

## Your submission

- OPD
1. Should be held Bi or Tri annually for all Celebrant's irrespective Not Annually
  2. Unless there is a change in the Laws / Rules Can be boring and tedious  
With modern technology, can be done online i.e. instruction in the use and lay out of on line advertising.
  3. Pg 4 Para 2 / 3 There will always be a cost involved and this should be taken into account when becoming a Celebrant The fees are also Tax deductible.
  4. Pg 5 The date for the OPD are set by the provider when available in each area.  
Provision of OPD is fast becoming an industry in itself.  
Is they are providing Legal advice, have they, or should they, have Police clearances,
  5. Pg 6 Para 2 I would absolutely appose Baby naming's and Funerals to be counted toward OPD,s. There is no legal aspect or training required to do a funeral service (it is at the whim of the Funeral Director and in most cases, are friends or family) to the Celebrant as there is with Marriages
  6. Pg 7 Para 4 Celebrants must keep a record of the services they have provided for a period of

time or has that rule changed. I have not heard or seen anything to the contrary. That applies to OPD.s. I have found that providers give a certificate at the end of the day and advise the Dept of your attendance. Leave that part of the system as it is.

#### Conflict of interest

1. This is becoming a real problem. There are many who are turning this into a family business with the provision of Locations, Garden settings, Catering, Flowers, ancillaries etc. This under the name of another family member or Company name. Or as it is now becoming known as a "one stop wedding service"

Marriage of Family or a friend If there is no financial gain how can it be construed as a conflict of interest Stupid rule

2. I refer you to item 1
3. This is, in a backhanded way already happening If allowed to continue we will see the demise of Celebrants who are there to offer a community service. In the end we will see walk in walk out places as we have seen in America for many years, is this what we want.

The lifting of the moratorium in 2010 was the beginning of all these issues that we now face. Celebrants were looked on as highly respected members of the community. Now with the open slather it is "Oh dear not another one"