

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>	Patrick Frost
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).

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Would you prefer this submission to remain confidential? No

Your submission

Benefit to Business – Options 3 and 4

Having carefully read the Discussion Paper, I believe the complete de-regulation of the current Benefit to Business guidelines is the option favoured by MCLS.

However, I am very strongly opposed.

A change of this nature will result in the complete upheaval of Celebrancy. The inevitable result will be venues – wineries, hotels, sports clubs, reception centres etc – hiring a celebrant full-time or having an existing staff member trained, to conduct all weddings at that venue and bring in large numbers of extra weddings. It could also allow BDM Celebrants to conduct weddings at other venues. In our economy, there are hundreds of examples of “de-regulation” leading directly to the severe reduction of competition and in our case, marrying couples will be left with limited and “off-the-shelf” ceremonies. Small, part-time and independent celebrants such as myself will be forced out of the industry within a couple of years. If this option is introduced, I will encourage my Celebrant Association to set up a public campaign in opposition.