

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>	Susan Gillingham
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Your submission

A suggestion for streamlining OPD

Re claims of repetitiveness re compulsory OPD: repetition is actually a pretty good way to learn content. An annual refresher is a *great* idea. What about this?

- Establish a bank of (say) 1000 multi-choice questions.
- Each year as part of the registration process each celebrant is required to complete an online quiz of randomly selected questions (20? 50?) from the bank.
- In years of significant legislative change, 10 (say) of the questions would relate specifically to the new legislation.

The initial set-up would be expensive but after that it would be free to administer. This approach would help to ensure knowledge and understanding stay fresh. Lots of qualifications require regular refreshers.

2. Claims of undue expense for OPD

If there's a compulsory quiz every year (say 2hrs equivalent), then training providers need to provide the other 3 hrs. I suggested in my survey that celebrants complete an online form at registration time recording course code and training provider. Results can be sorted by provider, and the relevant extracts sent to providers for verification. This is administratively easy for both providers and AGD.

If this approach were used, all providers would be owed the same fee for each celebrant who used them that year. So the fee could be included as part of the registration charge and disbursed to providers by AGD once their verification is submitted.

All this could be automated. And you'd get fewer complaints if it looked like registration went up but included free OPD!

The only consideration is that celebrants would be paying in advance for both registration and OPD, but reporting on that OPD the following year. So AGD would have the benefit of holding the OPD fees for a year before disbursement.