

# 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>	Susan Oliver
<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.

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Hardcopy submissions received by mail or fax will still be considered by the department, however they will not be published on the website.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

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.**

My Disclosure Statement since 2005.

#### **The Question:**

Are you engaged in any business activity other than the performance of weddings as a marriage celebrant: Yes/No?

If YES, please provide details (including the impact of these activities on your role as a marriage celebrant, their relationship with your role as a marriage celebrant and the nature of any benefit you obtain from these activities):

#### **My Response:**

The Oliver Family are pioneer owners of a 7th generation mixed farming property "White Hill", at McLaren Vale in South Australia.

Early in 2000 this property was local council Heritage listed.

Therefore as custodians we have an obligation and responsibility to maintain & care for the buildings, infrastructure & surrounds; onerous to any farming enterprise.

I have been involved with weddings & functions in my garden here at "Whitehill" since 1997, initially as a community service capacity.

However the funds now generated through my business now assist to fund the repair and maintenance of the extensive 1850's> heritage stone buildings on the property.

Our mission statement "Sharing a heritage since 1839", reflects our intentions.

The appreciation, enjoyment and positive feedback received by our extended family, local community, interstate and overseas guests is certainly an encouragement and good reason to continue to do our best!

Over the years, many & varied celebrants & clergy have & are most welcome to conduct weddings here.

In my "Letter of Introduction" to my celebrant services at "Whitehill", I am careful to explain to couples that they are under no obligation to engage my services at "Whitehill"; the choice of celebrant is theirs to make.

**An extract from my "Letter of Introduction" follows:**

**"Civil Celebrant** –*I am a registered Civil Celebrant and I am able to officiate at your marriage, however of course the choice of celebrant is entirely yours. I attach the relevant information.*

**Accommodation**- *we also offer on-site accommodation in the Whitehill Heritage Homestead, please contact our coordinator if interested.*

**Local Knowledge**- *having lived & worked in the region for many years, I am happy to assist with any referrals you may require ie: florist, make-up, mini-bus hire, local limousine services, various musicians, wedding cake specialists, photographers etc"*

*I am available to perform ceremonies elsewhere, usually locally".*

**Susan Kaye Oliver: Authorised Civil Celebrant # A07115.**

17/12/2016.

**Footnote:** *I trust this clarifies my personal position and unique situation with regards to "conflict of interest" and how I have thoughtfully & sensitively handled this situation over the time I have served as a Commonwealth Civil Celebrant.*