

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Hardcopy submissions received by mail or fax will still be considered by the department, however they will not be published on the website.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

Part A : OPD

- Issue 1: I support the regular requirement be the 3 hours (half day) and only in years where laws change that the requirement be extended to the 5 hours (full day.)

In my experience the administrative aspects are repetitive and unnecessary.

- Issue 2: I think it is blatantly obvious that the 2 key annual payments ought to be aligned in timing! And as the academic year is based on the calendar, it seems logical that the alignment ought to be according to the calendar year also.

I feel – as adults – that Celebrants ought to be able to manage the end of year deadline.

- Issue 3: I support subject availability for other ceremonies – memorials, funerals and namings.

- Issue 4: I favour scrapping OPD requirement completely in their 1st year for new Celebrants as it is redundant (I was caught in this issue myself in 2014.)

- Issue 5: Whatever costs less? – which seems to be the AG Dept continuing to monitor.

Part B : Conflict of Interest

- I believe strongly that Option 2 should resolve the issue well

I feel that opening up the full gamut of wedding services to the Celebrant would be wrong, it would begin the 'corporatisation of the Celebrancy business' in an unseemly way and ultimately undermine the dignity of the legal aspect of the role of Celebrant.