



Survey on forms relating to solemnisation of marriage

Summary of results

April 2015

Background

On 25 February 2015, an online survey opened seeking feedback from all celebrants on forms relating to the solemnisation of marriage. The survey closed on 7 April 2015.

Survey respondents

The Attorney-General's Department received 1853 responses to the survey. Of the respondents:

- 55.5% were Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants
- 42.3% were Ministers of religion of recognised denominations
- 0.2% were Defence Force chaplains
- 0.2% were registered training providers
- 1.2% were state and territory officers
- 0.6% nominated that they fell into the 'other' category.;

Notice of intended marriage (NOIM)

There were 1576 responses to the questions relating to the NOIM.¹ Of these respondents, 802 provided an additional comment.

Highest percentage	Lowest percentage	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
		20.1%	57.1%	10.2%	10.5%	2%
The NOIM is easy to complete		13.5%	37.9%	10.8%	26.3%	11.5%
There is enough space to complete the NOIM		16.6%	53.2%	17.1%	11.5%	1.6%
The instructions on how to complete the NOIM are clear		14%	48.2%	16.9%	15.5%	5.5%
The appearance and layout of the NOIM is appropriate		17.6%	63.2%	14.4%	4.1%	0.8%
The length of the NOIM is appropriate		17.6%	63.2%	11.4%	6.2%	1.6%
The NOIM covers all the information which is needed		13.1%	28.1%	35.7%	19.2%	3.8%
The language used in the NOIM should be less old-fashioned		6.7%	13.3%	39%	27.7%	13.3%
The language used in the NOIM should be less gender-specific						

Additional comments

The following key issues were raised by the comments on the NOIM:

- Would like changes to layout (especially the last page).
- More space for names.
- Remove 'number of children of previous marriage'.
- More space for address/occupation.
- Separate columns for divorce/death details and room for certificate numbers.
- More space for birth certificate/passport numbers.
- Change bridegroom to groom.
- More modern/simple language.
- Reduce space for date received.
- More instructions.
- More space for place of marriage.
- Generally more space.

¹ Due to rounding to one decimal place, responses to some questions do not add up to 100%.

Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage

There were 1502 responses to the questions relating to the Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage.² Of these respondents, 562 provided an additional comment.

Highest percentage	Lowest percentage	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
		14.3%	58.2%	13.1%	11.7%	2.7%
The declaration is easy to complete		12.3%	49.3%	11.8%	20.5%	6.1%
There is enough space to complete the declaration		13.4%	58.8%	17.2%	9%	1.6%
The instructions on how to complete the declaration are clear		12.8%	49.1%	18%	15.2%	4.8%
The appearance and layout of the declaration is appropriate		13%	59.7%	19.2%	6.6%	1.6%
The length of the declaration is appropriate		13.6%	66.4%	16.5%	2.7%	0.7%
The declaration covers all the information which is needed		9.6%	29.6%	36.1%	21%	3.7%
The language used in the declaration should be less old-fashioned		5.6%	14.5%	40.2%	27.5%	12.2%
The language used in the declaration should be less gender-specific						

Additional comments

The following key issues were raised by the comments on the Declaration of no legal impediment to marriage:

- Increased space for names.
- More modern/simple language.
- More space for signatures.
- Generally requires more space for details.
- Too much space for underage marriage section.
- Prefer horizontal format.
- Repetitive/time consuming.
- Font too small.

² Due to rounding to one decimal place, responses to some questions do not add up to 100%.

Official certificate of marriage

There were 1492 responses to the questions relating to the Official certificate of marriage.³ Of these respondents, 450 provided an additional comment.

	Highest percentage	Lowest percentage	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The official certificate is easy to complete			24.7%	65.8%	5.4%	3.2%	0.9%
There is enough space on the official certificate			20.3%	57.3%	6.2%	13.7%	2.5%
The instructions on how to complete the official certificate are clear			20.6%	65.3%	9.7%	3.6%	0.7%
The appearance and layout of the official certificate is appropriate			21.2%	61.5%	9%	6.4%	1.9%
The length of the official certificate is appropriate			21.6%	67.9%	8.6%	1.2%	0.7%
The official certificate covers all the information which is needed			21%	66.8%	8.6%	3%	0.5%
The language used in the official certificate should be less old-fashioned			8.7%	24.2%	36.3%	24.8%	6%
The language used in the official certificate should be less gender-specific			6.8%	14.3%	37.1%	28.1%	13.7%

Additional comments

The following key issues were raised by the comments on the Official certificate of marriage:

- Use 'Groom' instead of 'Bridegroom'.
- More space for signatures.
- Reinstate space for 'A' number.
- Generally requires more space for details.
- Have 'bride' and 'bridegroom' under the signature line.
- Problems using online version.
- Have date marriage solemnised on one line.
- More space for addresses.
- No space for registration number/official use area.
- More space for names.
- Lack of instructions for completing the form.

³ Due to rounding to one decimal place, responses to some questions do not add up to 100%.