AGD Knowledge of the Law – 2020 OPD activity

May 2020

What is the 2020 OPD obligation?
All Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants, including religious marriage celebrants, must complete five hours of OPD every calendar year (January to December) unless an exemption has been granted. The Attorney-General’s Department publishes a list of approved OPD activities at the start of each calendar year. The list is required by law and is published on the Federal Register of Legislation.

Is there a compulsory activity in 2020?
No. In 2020, in lieu of a single compulsory activity, the Registrar requires that celebrants complete at least one of the activities listed in Table 1 of Schedule 1 to the Marriage (Celebrant Professional Development) Statement 2020. These activities may include one of the OPD activities with marriage celebrancy content, one of the Certificate IV in Celebrancy units, or attendance at a conference delivered by a celebrant association or network. If further hours are required, celebrants are free to choose from the other activities listed in either Table 1 or Table 2 to make up the five hour OPD requirement.

The AGD 2020 OPD activity – Knowledge of the Law
The Attorney-General’s Department is offering a legal questions activity (Activity Code 20AGDKOTL) available for completion through the celebrant self-service portal.
This activity counts towards one hour of the celebrant’s five hour obligation and is free to complete.

Is the AGD KOTL activity compulsory to complete?
No. The activity is listed on Table 2 of the Statement as an elective activity.
The activity is not a test. The system has been designed to give celebrant’s four attempts to get 23 of the 25 legal questions right. If this is not achieved after the fourth attempt, the activity closes. The activity is directed at establishing the celebrant’s knowledge of the law relating to the solemnisation of marriages by marriage celebrants.
The activity provides celebrants with more choice and variety to complete their OPD obligations in 2020.

How many hours does the activity count as OPD.
The activity will count towards one hour of the celebrant’s five hour obligation.
Completing this activity is not automatically counted toward your five hours. To ensure it is, you will need to select the activity in the upload page. See steps below.

1. Select the provider which is OPD – Attorney-General’s Department
2. Select the activity which is Knowledge of the Law online
3. Click Add
4. For this activity you are not required to upload evidence of completion

How do I complete the activity?
The activity is available for completion in the celebrant’s self-service portal.

If a celebrant chooses to complete this activity, an individual set of 25 multiple choice legal questions will be created in the celebrant’s self-service portal.

Marriage celebrants have four attempts to complete the legal questions. Celebrants will be given information on the number of attempts taken to complete the questions and be able to print and/or download their set of questions and answers upon completion of the activity with correct answers identified.

The department will have access to the number of times it has taken the celebrant to complete the questions and how many questions the celebrant has answered correctly.

Essential resources
The answers to all the questions will be found in one or more of the following essential resources:

- the *Marriage Act 1961* and *Marriage Regulations 2017*
- the *Guidelines on the Marriage Act 1961 for Authorised Celebrants*
- other information on the department’s website
- key *forms* used in the solemnisation of marriages

Will celebrants be penalised if they don’t answer all the legal questions correctly?
No. The department will not issue a disciplinary measure against a marriage celebrant who fails to answer a minimum of 23 of the 25 legal questions correctly.

While this activity is not a test, the system will automatically assess the answers for correctness.

Will the department use data obtained via completion of the activity?
Yes. The department will create non-identifiable reports that will assist us in targeting areas where celebrants may require further education.

The department will use this information to create factsheets and further guidance material that will be available to all celebrants via our website.

The activity will also provide the Registrar with the option to issue the legal questions as a disciplinary measure under section 39I(2)(b) where appropriate, for example for non-compliance with section 39G of the *Marriage Act 1961* obligations, an unsatisfactory performance review or outcome of a complaint against a celebrant.