

To Whom It May Concern

Marriage Amendment (Celebrant Administration and Fees) Bill 2013 and the Marriage (Celebrant Registration Charge) Bill 2013.

Let me start by saying that as part of a wider Association of Marriage Celebrants, I fully support their submission to this "Inquiry". It is a thoughtful and insightful document and I can only trust you will take this document on board in making your decision.

Now let me say, in the vein of being "REAL" – are you kidding!!!

In my personal experience, the first error was the lifting of the cap. Whilst I hated having to wait out the capping period when I first became a celebrant, the reasons behind it were justified and a necessary tool to control the numbers of an industry that has a relatively small base of couples wanting to use the service.

What sort of bureaucratic mumbo jumbo are you proposing? Stop trying to fix things that aren't broken whilst at the same time lining the coffers to support your bungling and inefficiencies and making the general populace pay for your errors.

Celebrancy for me is a calling and something I can offer with the hopes of retiring into it as a job when I have to, or wish to, retire, that has the opportunity of a supporting income – not any more! I am good, very good at what I do. But the numbers of celebrants available and able to offer their services to an ever dollar conscious society means that I am lucky to perform 6 ceremonies a year.

I have obligations to fulfil annual OPD requirements, website, memberships, stationery, advertising, phones, office etc. all costs to be borne with little or no real income from the profession, so in effect, I am already possibly PAYING money to be a celebrant.

I believe it's time to take your head out of your proverbial and start acting, not re-acting. Take the concerns and seek advice from the people at the coal face. Support and be proactive.

Yours