

# Leanne Smith

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Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

25/04/2013

Dear Committee Secretary,

I write to support the submission of CoCA. I have been a Marriage Celebrant since 2009 and in 2012 conducted 60 ceremonies. This makes me quite a successful celebrant, but it still doesn't equate to a full time income in a regional town in Central Queensland. Any fee which is introduced will impact on my income and the cost to marrying couples who engage my services in a profound way. I have not been convinced that such a fee will result in any improved service for my clients.

I am concerned that there is an intention to move from the life- long appointment which I was given (subject to performance review) to an annual registration. I am already booked to conduct ceremonies in September 2014- where does this leave those couples if my registration is an annual event? Can I no longer take a booking 12 months in advance? This seems a most unreasonable suggestion in an industry which involves preparation and planning over extended periods.

Yours Sincerely

Leanne Smith  
Civil Celebrant