

Dear Verable members of this Committee

Marriage Bills before the Australian Parliament make the unfounded claim that they are to make the Department more efficient and effective at their regulatory role

The truth is very much otherwise but given the animosity towards Civil celebrants since the interference begun by J Winston Howard, well...

The annual "Celebrant Registration" fee will increase costs on 95% of all civil marriages and over 70% of all marriages in Australia. Or, with respect, do you expect us to absorb the fee particularly when we suffer grossly unfair competition from state bodies that marry on state owned land by employees who do not have to do all that we do?

Seven days to transfer a Notice of Intended Marriage gives couples no time to choose another celebrant, nor any guarantee that another celebrant with the same qualities will be able to be found in time.

All persons who solemnise marriages in Australia must be authorised under the Marriage Act. . However, these proposed bills specifically exempt two groups of marriage celebrant in the Marriage Act. Division 1—Authorised celebrants Subdivision A—Ministers of religion AND Subdivision B—State and Territory officers etc.

This annual "Celebrant Registration" fee increases the burden on Commonwealth celebrants and NO others, Discrimination by any measure.

I oppose the removal of 5 year reviews of life-time appointment

I oppose the introduction of a "Celebrant Registration Fee" unless this applies to **all** marriage celebrants without exception.

I beg for a minimal staffing of the Marriage Law and Celebrant Section, and if possible with qualified persons. If need be these extra persons could be located in the largest states such as Victoria and NSW

Please do not wreck celebrancy

Mr Kenos