

Hi,

I wish to voice my concern over the proposed changes surrounding the Marriage Amendment (celebrant and administration and fees) Bill 2013 and the Marriage Celebrant Registration Charge 2013 Bill.

As a practising and active celebrant appointed almost five years ago, I strongly object to the imposition of the fee and the fact that my lifetime appointment will effectively become an annual appointment for which I see no valid reason. Not only does this add uncertainty for myself but perhaps more importantly, my clients.

The proposed billing and 'speedy de-registration' process is simply unreasonable to me and my clients. Surely this can only result in unnecessary upheaval for celebrants and clients alike if such a severe stance is to be taken for non-payment of the fee (and what if a celebrant happens to be away for a month?).

I originally went through the necessary qualifications and was appointed for life so why should this now be compromised?

The provision for immediate and automatic de-registration is simply not workable. You get longer to pay a household bill than you do get deregistered as a professional! This will only serve to penalise clients who are looking forward to their wedding day by introducing the insecurity of their celebrant possibly being de-registered.

This proposal needs more careful consideration and I strongly object to it.

You get more warnings if your electricity is to be cut off for non-payment of the bill than what you do for being de-registered as a community serving, professional celebrant, which serves as a livelihood to many!

Please reconsider and put forward a better more workable proposal before passing into law.

Regards