

Marriage Celebrants Fees - Bill

1. The introduction of an annual fee for Marriage Celebrants sets a precedence which must be stopped in its tracks, there was no fee payable in the first place to become or remain as a Celebrant.
2. This is a discriminatory fee! The Marriage Section must not be allowed to charge fees, unless the fee charged applies to “all marriage celebrants” with all marriage celebrants subject to the same regulatory measures. Currently this is not the case ‘Religious Marriage Celebrants’ from mainstream churches are exempt from this.
3. There are other fairer ways to ensure increased professionalism, have fewer numbers of celebrants and more opportunities for celebrancy work without this fee and increased numbers of public servants who have now cemented themselves into the positions.
4. This is a clandestine method of raising revenue for the coffers of the Government and will in no way be of any assistance to current Marriage Celebrants as only Civil Celebrants have been targeted.
5. The ABS has already established most Celebrants will perform no more than six Weddings per year, and
6. The ABS Statistics show that there has not been any significant increase in registered marriages over the past 20 years.
7. Annually we are also required to pay out for Legislative ‘Ongoing Professional Development’ starting approximately at a \$170.00 fee plus.
8. As a Marriage celebrant I would be foolhardy not to have Insurance for Public Liability, Professional Indemnity, Personal and Accident Insurance, as well as Equipment insurance in case of loss or theft.
9. No good will come out of the charging a fee, as professionalism can neither be counted or measured on the ability to ‘charge a fee’ This fee then ultimately will be passed onto the consumer for services provided by the celebrant
10. The impost of this fee will make ‘Marriage Celebrancy’ financially untenable.
11. This fee will defeat the original intention Lionel Murphy’s program to reach out to the Marrying couples who struggle to meet daily living expenses who the then Attorney-General targeted to ensure all had the financial ability to reach out for a Marriage Celebrant when required to meet their needs.

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