

Submission to Senators 23/4/1013.

Senate Inquiry on two bills on the Marriage Act.

My name is _____ I have been an Authorised Marriage Celebrant since 2008, after completing my Celebrant Course in 2006/7, and successfully applying to the Attorney-Generals Marriage Celebrant Registrar.

My appointment as an Authorised Marriage Celebrant, I understood was a **Lifetime Appointment**, subject to my continuing to be a fit and proper person, and my complying with the Code of Practice and the Terms of the Marriage Act.

I take pride in my appointment, as it is a very uplifting experience to assist and officiate a marriage ceremony. I diligently attend all compulsory Ongoing Professional Development hours, Conferences and always keep to date with all the requirements expected of me, as a Authorised Marriage Celebrant.

Many kilometers are travelled and time spent in making preparation for an intended couples marriage and the marriage ceremony. Consequently many dollars are spent on the maintenance of the motor vehicle, fuel, association fees, insurances, Conferences and O.P.D. days as well as general expences. My approx. average **gross** income for 2009/10, 2010/11, has been less than \$1.700., much less for 2011/12.

As you can imagine, I cannot consider supporting the changes (eg the change to the annual registration renewal, or the possible restriction of fee to one sector that being the Commonwealth appointed celebrants Only, not religious or state appointed celebrants.

The impact on the public because of the consequences of a deregistration of a celebrant because yearly registration fee had not been paid. Couples would have no confidence if they book ahead to a celebrant of their choice to find that the NOIM had been transferred to an alternate celebrant not to their choosing.

The number of marriages annually are not increasing, yet the appointment of celebrants are.