

Address for submission - please respond by 22/4/13

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



Dear Sir / Madam,

re Amendments to the Marriage Bills

Points for discussion.

1. 'Appointment for life' or 'one year contract'.

Payment of a renewal fee and compliance with whatever additional conditions there might be.  
The fee is only applicable to registered CMC authorised under the Marriage Celebrant Program and ministers of religion whose denomination is not proclaimed under 26 of the Act..  
Proposed amount is \$240.00 in year one - does this include GST?  
A statutory limit of \$600.00 to be set (GST?) and to be indexed according to the Consumer Price index. The actual amount of the annual registration charge is to be determined by the Minister by legislative instrument

Non payment of fees within the time limit.  
The provision for immediate and automatic de-registration changes  
What happens to the couples you have made a commitment to to perform their weddings? Another celebrant whom they may not like? Not good for public relations! Change may be at the last minute which may upset Bride / Mother of the Bride. Bad publicity. Weddings will cost more!

I AM PREPARED TO PAY A FEE  
IF THAT IS NECESSARY, BUT ACCORDING  
TO MY FEES - FOR A WEDDING - IT WILL  
MEAN AN INCREASE IMPOSITION TO  
MY COUPLES INCLUDING THOSE THAT  
ARE BOOKED AHEAD.

I DO NOT DO MANY WEDDINGS, IN  
FACT THE NUMBER HAS DIMINISHED FOLLOWING  
YOUR PERMITTED LARGE INCREASE IN  
MEMBER CELEBRANTS

## 2. Five Year Review or Annual Review

Answering some questions, including the number of weddings you have done in the past year.

Previously, annual reporting. Change to 5 yr review: save money. Why need to return to annual reporting? Once annual appointments are signed into law the door is open for additional conditions to be put on renewal of registrations

In the New Zealand model a celebrant has to have solemnised a minimum number of wedding in the current year in order to qualify for renewal of registration for the following year.

A REVIEW OF MY ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE HELD  
CONSISTANT WITH THE TIMINGS OF MY  
OTHER ACTIVITIES, ESPECIALLY IN THE  
PUBLIC SPEAKING ARENA - WHICH IS  
MAINLY FOR CHARITIES.

## 3. Appointment for life or one year contract

APPOINTMENT FOR LIFE OR  
FOR A MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS  
IF REQUIRED.

Removing the "old guard"

If removed there is currently another 1000 new celebrants coming in every two years, so in 5 years we will be back to where we started

Capping numbers

AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE IS A WEALTH OF EXPERIENCE AVAILABLE TO CELEBRANTS, THE MAJORITY OF WHOM INCLUDE MYSELF, DO REFER TO FOR ONGOING GUIDANCE. PUBLIC SERVANTS ARE EXPERIENCED, IN THEORY BUT REMARKABLY VAGUE WHEN IT COMES TO SPECIFIC APPLICATIONS OF CIRCUMSTANCES.

'Conflict of Interest'.

Rights to work and rights in work

fee to recover regulatory costs (?) from those who receive the benefit of authorisation

This provision concerns the right of enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work, including remuneration.. (~~which is~~)

I BELIEVE IN MY ENTITLEMENT TO RECOUP EVER INCREASING COSTS - INCLUDING GST ON PREMIUMS FOR INDEMNITY INSURANCE, TO ENABLE ME TO SATISFY GOVT. REQUIREMENTS TO UPHOLD MY CMC POSITION. SINCE MY APPOINTMENT I HAVE AVERAGED LESS THAN 10 WEDDINGS EACH FINANCIAL YEAR. THEREFORE MY INCOME THERE FROM IS PROBABLY CONTINUE TO BE MODEST. IS IT YOUR INTENTION TO KILL THE GOOSE THAT LAYS THE GOLDEN EGGS?

Cost recovery? What am I getting for my money????

administration of the Marriage Celebrates program

including services delivered to Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants

MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE REGISTRAR OF THE B.D.M. IS EXCELLANT, PERSONAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THEM ARE SATISFACTORY, I FIND THEM MOST COOPERATIVE & PROMPT IN REPLYING TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS.

SOME OF YOUR LATEST APPOINTED CELEBRANTS ARE UNDERCUTTING OUR FEES. THIS UNDOUBTEDLY RESULTS IN UNSATISFACTORY CELEBRATIONS.

~~Services to celebrants who do not access to a computer~~

THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AS OF RIGHT, ARE ENTITLED TO MINIMUM STANDARDS AT A TIME OF CELEBRATIONS.

WITH MANY YEARS EXPERIENCE IN HANDLING THE PUBLIC I CONSIDER MYSELF TO BE AN EXPERT IN SUCH MATTERS.

MRS PATRICIA (PATT) D HOWSON

WEB SITE WWW.PATRICIAHOWSON.COM  
(SMALL LETTERS)