

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

SENATE SUBMISSION

I am unsure that the increased number of personnel in the Attorney General's Office is going to be in way conducive to increasing the professionalism of Civil Celebrants. This move could be construed as building a public service empire, unless the extra staff are actually registered civil celebrants who have industry knowledge and experience to enhance the work of the Office and who have a relevant, progressing and logical job description relating directly to Civil Celebrants.

I am also concerned about the ongoing discrimination towards Marriage Celebrants required to pay a registration Fee. I am in agreement with this fee as a professional requirement; however I am concerned that not ALL Marriage Celebrants (Secular or religious) are required to meet the same standard. This is blatant discrimination and unfairly targets Attorney General registered celebrants.

Can the Attorney Generals section explain why this fee is not applicable to all personnel who conduct weddings? If this is a fee for service, what additional services will you be providing that is being covered by this fee and which are not already available to me (for example, information readily available from State Births, Deaths and Marriage Registries or my Association).

I support the recommendations made by CNN Inc and CoCA including the Capping Recommendation NOT to remove Section 39E (1) but to amend SECTION 39E (2) to put in the CoCA 5 yearly regional appointment process based upon the best candidate for the vacancies - number to be determined on an average of weddings per celebrant per year.

Regards