

Fiona Jane Romanin
Civil Marriage Celebrant

25th April 2013

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

I am writing in relation to the changes being made to the Civil Celebrants program and the legislation contained in the two Marriage Amendment Bills 2013 and I appreciate the opportunity to comment.

I believe that the introduction of an annual fee as it stands is discriminatory to civil celebrants and should be applied to all parties who are authorized to solemnise marriages in Australia. I am also skeptical that any revenue raised will go towards improvements to the celebrant's program in the future, with any funds available instead being absorbed or siphoned off to other areas. Many civil celebrants including myself have contributed a great deal of time and large financial investments in becoming celebrants and maintaining our celebrant businesses.

As a current member of Australian Marriage Celebrants Inc (AMC), I am supportive of their submission on these matters - along with the wider considerations of the Coalition of Celebrant Associations (CoCA) on these proposed changes. They are the voice of our profession – I urge you to please listen!

Kind regards,

Fiona Romanin