



April 2013

Dear Sir,

I am a Civil Marriage Celebrant....and am writing in regard the marriage bills
I have heard there is a proposed fee of \$600 per annum in one of the bills....
I know many celebrants who love their job but only get a handful of wedding jobs to do each year....I
myself would be battling if I had to pay an extra \$600 fee each year...

I now have to pay for OPD every year plus the extremely high cost of advertising every year in order
to even get jobs....plus Ins and other expenses.....A \$600 fee would be disasterous to many
celebrant. And totally unfair,

There is no guarantee that this fee will give legally correct services.....

The bills are very discriminatory in that they are applied to Commonwealth registered celebrants
and not to celebrants said to be regulated by States and Territories (these celebrants have no
appointment criteria and no ongoing training)

Celebrants are seeing bills as revenue raising despite claims to the contrary.

Many celebrants battle to make ends meet with their annual number of weddings, unlike the
government workers they don't have a regular wage ...but professional celebrants put in a lot of
hours for just one wedding.....They cant put up their fee's as that is unfair to the couple....so how is
this \$600 fee going to be justified????? A \$100 per year fee would be more realistic (although still
hard for some celebrants to pay). Lets face it there are a lot of other yearly costs to be a celebrant.

The Department originally proposed an annual fee of \$600 and when celebrants (rightly so) said the
amount was outrageous, reduced it to \$240 without explaining it could revert to \$600 (only
discovered when Bills made available). This is very unfair to a very important workforce in society.

It is discrimination to allow some celebrants in remote areas to not have to pay, when all celebrants
(or most) battle to make ends meet with the amount of ceremonies they do. A better ideas would
be to stop all new celebrants for a couple of years or make the new celebrant training last two years
as you have made it to easy for new celebrants who have flooded the market of late). This of
course means celebrant fees have to go down to cope with the competition.

Mainline Ministers don't have to do yearly training in celebrancy.....in small churches they might only
have one wedding (if that per year). But maybe should have to do the OPD. But they don't miss
out on their wage if they don't have many weddings to do (they get a set wage from the church that
includes marrying people). Whereas Civil Celebrants loose out big time if they only have 5 or so
weddings to do a year. And an added cost on top is unfair.

BDM staff and court officers, doing weddings apparently wont have to pay a fee (do they have to do
OPD????) many of them wrongfully also work outside their work environment as Celebrants. Yet
they don't have any fee imposed on them.....It is all turning out to be very discriminatory.

As I say, if the fee was a flat \$100 for everyone, that might be acceptable but a \$600 fee would drive many struggling celebrants out of business and stop small towns having a celebrant at all.....This fee is not in the best interests of society.

Kind Regards