

Cheryl Langley

To whom it may concern:

Please accept my submission to the inquiry to MARRIAGE AMENDMENT (CELEBRANT ADMINISTRATION AND FEES) BILL 2013 and THE Marriage (CELEBRANT REGISTRATION CHARGE) BILL

I strongly disagree with the introduction of an annual Registration fee to Civil Marriage Celebrants as I find this discriminatory if you plan to omit Ministers of Religion and State Officers who get paid.

Also I find it discriminatory if you bring in the exemption for remote areas, as some have a captured market and can do more ceremonies and charge what they like.

How are you going to police what area is exempt?

The idea of a celebrant is to personalize and individualise their wedding so that the memory will remain forever of their happy day. Most Celebrants are professional and work hard as they love what they do. For what we charge and what we do you could not possibly depend on living without other supplements (job or Spouse support)

Most Celebrants spend up to 20 plus hours meeting with clients, (at least 3 times) traveling, writing a ceremony that is acceptable for all parties. There are overheads, Petrol, car maintenance. Insurance, Associations, Copyright, On going Professional development, PA System, batteries, paper, office equipment to name a few. I would love to charge a large amount to cover cost but I do not believe that is possible.

I believe we should charge more than Births, Deaths and Marriages as they only do the legal bits.

I think a fair and equitable way would be to charge a fee per marriage. This would be covered in the paperwork sent to register the marriages and so no need to increase personal in the Governments Attorney department.

I support the Amendment Marriage Act to add an Australian passport as evidence of date and place of birth of the person seeking to marry as this removes discrimination against all Australian citizens, especially persons born overseas and are unable to produce their Birth certificates from their birth country.

Thank you for this opportunity to reply to the above amendments.

Yours Sincerely

Cheryl Langley