



A Ceremony for You

Janice Woolrych OMC

27th April 2013

The Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitution Affairs Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Re: Marriage Amendment (Celebrant Administration and Fees) Bill Marriage (Celebrant Registration Charge) Bill 2013

I am writing to express my opposition to sections of the proposed changes to the above Bill.

I oppose the possible removal of lifetime appointments (subject to abiding to Section 39G) to what is an untenable position of yearly contracts. A Marriage Celebrants ability to pay the fee will determine their registration – completely unfair and unjust!! This is very unfair and discriminates against the Commonwealth appointed celebrants as this is NOT imposed on religious and celebrants employed by the States.

Many Marriage Celebrants take bookings from couples up to 1 to 2 years in advance – how are we to reassure these couples that we will still be registered when their wedding comes around. Most marriage celebrants rely on ‘word of mouth’ for client bookings and they choose a certain celebrant as they can relate to their style, the manner of their presentation or have a personal connection - marrying couples what to know that on one of the most important days of their lives, they will have the Celebrant they want marrying them.

I oppose the introduction of an annual Celebrant registration charge as it is blatant discrimination. It has been stated that this fee is being introduced as a cost recovery exercise, if this is so – WHY are some exempt? If a registration fee is to be introduced it should be across the board and ALL marriage celebrants, non-religious, religious, and State employed.

I strongly oppose the introduction of the unfair and unjust ‘cost recovery’ measures and the removal of lifetime appointments that are presented in the above Bill.

Yours faithfully,

Janice Woolrych OMC