

To the Senators,

My name is Brian H Davies Authorized Marriage Celebrant registered number A62814.

I fully understand the need to find the means to make the funding of the Marriage Celebrants Section, however I am firmly convinced there is a narrow view to obtaining the funding by charging existing celebrants a fee of \$240.00 yearly.

If there are ten thousand registered celebrants multiplied by \$240.00 the yearly return would be \$2,400,000 close enough to 2.5 million dollars.

If however every couple were charged a Federal Licence Fee of \$55.00 and based on the statistics of 2010 that one hundred and eighteen thousand couples were married in Australia the revenue return would have been \$64.9 million dollars. This fee would apply to all weddings church, civil or registry office.

As the national average of weddings per year per celebrant is close to five weddings a fee of \$240.00 will drive a lot of celebrants away from a profession they really love which will result in a loss of revenue stream as opposed to the user pays fees which guarantee a higher revenue base.

All that is required is to reprint the Form 13 Notice of Intended Marriage to include an extra detachable page with a payment by credit card section and this page could be sent by the celebrant to the Marriage Celebrants Section where an extra staffer or two could then action the payments. This in turn would cover all exiting staff or any extras required for the future.

This fee could be collected and sent off at the time that the couple first sign the form 13 which is usually two months prior to the wedding day.

Even at this late date I firmly believe this system far exceeds the value of what the current proposal is and would fund other activities where staffers could be sent into the field to attend state or national association celebrant meetings where they would be a valued asset when given the chance to talk about their departments role.

Yours faithfully.

Brian H Davies. JP AMC.