

Beryl Stevens – Civil Marriage Celebrant

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House, CANBERRA. 2600

26th April, 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

MARRIAGE AMENDMENTS BILLS 2013

I support the meticulously researched and referenced submission from the Coalition of Celebrant Associations Inc. in this matter.

I am particularly concerned with two points:

1. There will be a clear case of discrimination if an annual registration fee is imposed upon Civil Marriage Celebrants and not on Religious or Registry Celebrants.
2. Civil Marriage Celebrants were appointed for a life term. Registration aligned to payment of an annual fee makes a mockery of this.

I completed a 12 months full-time postgraduate university degree in Civil Celebrancy at Monash University, as I believed this was the optimum training level for professional celebrancy at that time. Discrimination and over-regulation targeted specifically at Civil Marriage Celebrants will, I fear, reduce the profession to a casual and transient labour force, which is certainly not in the best interests of the Marriage Act or the marrying couple.

Yours faithfully,

Beryl Stevens