

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS
ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT

Output 1.1

Question No. 20

Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 24 May 2007:

Following the introduction of CanPrint as the uniform printer for all Marriage Certificates:

(a) Was any money paid to recompense celebrants for stock they had previously ordered but was now unusable?

i) If so, give details as to the amount of compensation.

(b) Broken down by month, how much so far has been charged to Marriage Celebrants for the printing of those Marriage Certificates?

(c) Provide the costs charged for Marriage Certificates.

The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:

(a) No compensation was paid to marriage celebrants. Considerable notice was given. The Department notified marriage celebrant associations six months ahead of the introduction of the new certificate. Three months before the new certificate came into use full details of the changes were sent to all Commonwealth-appointed marriage celebrants and to all contact officers in the religious denominations proclaimed as 'recognised denominations' under Section 26 of the *Marriage Act 1961*).

(b) No charge has been levied on marriage celebrants for the printing of Form 15 marriage certificates. Printing costs are included in the purchase price of marriage certificates.

(c) Prior to the introduction of the new certificates on 1 September 2005, the cost of marriage certificates was \$28.00 for a pack of fifty (50) and \$8.35 for a pack of ten (10). Since 1 September 2005, the price charged for the new certificates has been \$17.95 for a pack of ten (10) certificates and \$54.95 for a pack of fifty (50) certificates. These prices include packaging and postage. The price per marriage certificate is \$1.80 if purchased in a pack of ten and \$1.10 if purchased in a pack of fifty.