

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

**Output 1.3**

**Question No. 73**

**Senator Wright asked the following question at the hearing on 18 October 2011:**

What measures to increase professionalism were identified in the Attorney-General's Regulation Impact Statement?

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

The Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) noted that the legislative regime governing marriage celebrants registered under the Marriage Celebrants Program is robust, and contains a range of mechanisms to ensure that the integrity of the Program is protected including performance reviews, disciplinary measures and a complaints process.

The RIS noted that the Department has lacked the resources or capacity to apply the existing legislative regime to properly regulate the industry and respond in a timely way to those marriage celebrants who do not comply with their legislative obligations. The RIS identified improved regulation as the major key to increasing professionalism within the sector. Improved regulation is a major aim of the reforms to the Program announced as part of the 2011-2012 Budget. These reforms, which include the professional celebrants' fee, will commence from 1 July 2013.