

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

**Program 1.3**

**Question No. 76**

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

Did the government in 1995 deregulate the set fee for weddings by civil marriage celebrants to allow them to set their own fees, as is the case for ministers of religion of a recognized denomination?

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

In 1995 the government repealed the provision in the *Marriage Regulations 1963* that set a prescribed fee for marriage celebrants to charge marrying couples.

Ministers of religion from recognized denominations are governed by separate provisions of the *Marriage Act 1961*. In relation to the charging of fees by ministers of religion, section 112 provides that a minister of religion who is an authorized celebrant may require or receive a fee for or in respect of the solemnization of a marriage. Section 33 provides that a minister of religion from a recognized denomination may be deregistered if they have been making a business of solemnizing marriages for the purpose of profit or gain.