

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

Program 1.3

Question No. 77

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

1. In 2000 how many Commonwealth Marriage Celebrants were there?
2. In 2000 how many staff did the Marriage Celebrant program have and what was its overall budget?
3. Allowing for inflation, what would be the % cost of the 2000 Marriage Celebrant Program compared to the \$4.2 million being sought now for full-cost recovery of an expanded Marriage Law & Celebrant Section?
4. What are the current staffing numbers of the Marriage Law & Celebrant Section (MLCS) and what is its overall budget?
5. How many extra Marriage Law & Celebrant Section (MLCS) staff is it planned to employ in the expanded Marriage Law & Celebrant Section?
6. What classification of staff be employed in the proposed expanded Marriage Law & Celebrant Section?
7. How many Commonwealth Appointed Marriage Celebrants have been previously, or are employed, by the Marriage Law & Celebrant Section?

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

1. Records indicate that there were 3,623 marriage celebrants registered under the Program in 2000.
2. The Department does not have records that provide this information.
3. The Department does not have records that provide this information.
4. There is currently 16.82 full time equivalent staff. All staff do not work solely on the administration of the Marriage Celebrants Program. The current 2011-12 budget for direct staffing and supplier costs for MLCS is about \$1.65 million.
5. The Department is not currently able to answer this question as it will depend on the outcome of the consultations and the structure of the reforms and fee regime introduced.
6. The Department is not currently able to answer this question as it will depend on the outcome of the consultations and the structure of the reforms and fee regime introduced.
7. No Commonwealth Appointed Marriage Celebrants are currently employed in the Section. The Department is not aware of any previous staff member of the Section having been a Commonwealth Appointed Marriage Celebrant.