

Ms Maarit Kasurinen - Civil Marriage Celebrant - Brisbane Queensland
Specialising in Elopements, Intimate Weddings and Naming Ceremonies

26/04/2013

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

**Inquiry into the Marriage Amendment (Celebrant Administration and Fees) Bill 2013
and the Marriage (Celebrant Registration Charge) Bill 2013.**

As a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant appointed in September 2006 I:

- Oppose the removal of 5 year reviews of celebrants
- Oppose the effective removal of my life-time appointment
- Oppose the introduction of an annual Celebrant Registration Charge
- Support the Amendment to add an Australian passport as evidence of the date and place of birth of the party seeking to marry
- Support an Application Fee for all new marriage celebrants
- Support that all Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrants be required to belong to a professional celebrant association.
- Support the submission made by the Coalition of Celebrant Associations Inc (CoCA)

As a citizen I am concerned for the general marrying public in that their choice of celebrant and style of marriage ceremony will be greatly reduced by the introduction of an annual Celebrant Registration Charge. Over the last 6 months a number of young and vibrant celebrants have indicated to me that they will be resigning as a Commonwealth-registered marriage celebrant if an annual Celebrant Registration Charge is introduced.

The loss of large numbers of celebrants could return the marrying public to the situation I faced when marrying in 1987. In booking a celebrant six months before my wedding date, I found it impossible to book a preferred celebrant. Thus I engaged the only available celebrant I could find, who provided a very poor quality ceremony.

I became a celebrant to provide marrying couples a marriage ceremony which matches their needs and expectations.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Maarit Kasurinen
Brisbane Queensland