

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

Program 1.3

Question No. 74

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

Did the Attorney-General's Department consult with marriage celebrants and the general public about the decision to fully cost recover an expanded Marriage Law and Celebrant Section by requiring an annual registration fee from the celebrants who conduct 60% of the weddings in Australia?

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

No. As noted in the Regulation Impact Statement it was not appropriate to undertake detailed consultation with the marriage celebrant sector prior to the announcement of the Budget measures. The Department has subsequently conducted a comprehensive program of consultations with stakeholders in October and November of 2011 on the announcement which is informing the detail of the scheme.