

**To: Marriage Law and Celebrant Section**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014**

**Submission: Marriage Forms from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014.**

In the absence of any request for consultation by the Attorney-General's Department with celebrant practitioners via their associations or peak body, the Coalition of Celebrant Associations (CoCA) makes the following submission.

From feedback from celebrants via our website, which is accessible to all marriage celebrants, and from comments made via our own associations, the Coalition of Celebrant Associations (CoCA) recommends:

**Format**

- Pdf writable formats available to all marriage celebrants - as handwritten forms increase risk of transposition errors
- If security is an issue, make all forms available via the Celebrants Portal and celebrant associations, with the exception of the Notice of Intended Marriage which should be readily available for the general public

**Layout**

- Use the layout of the existing forms except for the second half of Page 4 of the Notice of Intended Marriage.

**Font**

- Use type face the previous forms for - Font on new form is unattractive & harder to read

**Modernising terms**

- Use "Groom" instead of "Bridegroom"

**Form Titles**

- Consult re re-instating forms numbers for ease of communication between celebrants, and for training.

**Notice of Intended Marriage**

Satisfaction with identities of the marring couple and the information provided on the Notice

The Marriage Act does not require photo ID. Therefore the specific question required by law would be:

**As per Section 42 (8), is the celebrant satisfied as to the identity of the parties and the accuracy of the information provided on this Notice Yes /No**

Then a place for noting specific ID is really For Celebrant Use Only". This would encourage best practice of sighting photo ID or if not, available several other forms of ID, but does not need to take as much room for specific examples.

That is, allow the celebrant note the type of ID for Bride/ Groom (eg Drivers Lc) Number or simply a series of tick boxes []

Given the concerns about identity fraud, and the processes for the disposal of these forms once the marriage is registered, it is recommended that this identification be simply a series of tick boxes [] without spaces for numbers

#### Number of children of previous marriage

Remove the item "*the number of children of previous marriage*".

*"A great many bridal couples today already have children when they marry. There should be a place on the forms to put the names and birthdates of these children. The present forms allow for the children of former marriages to be recorded, but not 'illegitimate' children, a term I believe should be dispensed with in this day and age. Also, some mothers were unmarried mothers when they came into their present relationship and have children from a former relationship, but not a marriage. The same should go for these children. ALL children should be treated by our government as equal. To ignore 'illegitimate' children is shameful in today's world."*

#### Suggested other changes:

- The 3 boxes across the top (For Celebrants/ Celebrant Details/Official Use) could be smaller & thus free up some space on the page.
- Right hand side of "Rites used" box should line up with "Date marriage solemnised" box because it looks unprofessional.
- Space to record Change of Name details
- A 'table' inserted, with two columns and three lines, to fit in dissolution/death/nullity certificate information and allow numbers of divorce papers to be entered on there
- Change the overseas passport line to just passport and kept the rest of old form the same.
- a second Signature Box beside the "Date Received" would be useful for Transfers/shortening but also be helpful for best practice.
- designated box/area wherein details of Transfer of the NOIM could be entered – *perhaps next to 'date received'*

#### **Format**

The boxes are poorly laid out with big gaps between those that relate to each other, eg the tick box for the Driver's licence and the box for the licence number.

#### Reduce space for

- Date Received
- side margins
- Rites/ Marriage Act the marriage box
- 'instructions' column

Increase space for

- place of marriage
- Given names
- second line of the address
- birth certificate or passport numbers
- Parents name
- recording details of two divorce proceedings on page 4 especially if both parties have been divorced.
- Court location for dissolution or nullity - especially if both Bride & Groom have been previously married.

**Declaration of No Impediment to Marriage (Previously Form 14)**

Increase space for

- Names – as people from Asia and over seas often have long names

Re-instate Items Missing

- Celebrant's A number

**Official Marriage Certificate (Previously Form 16)**

Re-instate Items Missing

- Celebrant's A number

Format

- Redesign top of form to be more compact

Additions

- No space to record Change of Name details
- for the Celebrant's AG number on Form 16

Removal

- provision on the NOIM for children of the marrying couple to be registered

Changes

- delete the words 'overseas' and the country of issue inserted in place thereof.

**Appendix**

FROM: <http://www.coalitionofcelebrantassociations.org.au/feedback/24-what-s-on-your-mind/244-marriage-forms>

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**78 comments**

**Tuesday, 11 November 2014 13:38**

I would like to see a separate form for under 18s, this would free up valuable space to design a better NOIM and Declaration.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Tuesday, 04 November 2014 16:03**

NOIM: There's still not enough space provided for evidence of divorce.  
The spaces allocated for bride & groom's information haven't allowed for completing by hand. As we can still buy packs of NOIM's from CanPrint, I'm assuming this is still the case.  
THE DECLARATION: has an inordinate amount of space allocated for marriage of a minor.

**Monday, 03 November 2014 20:36**

Hello - Where can I locate the instructional material for Wireless Public Speakers/Microphone requirements.

I took mine to a audio systems retailer and he said that mine is "just within the limits" and I cannot find the AG instructions to double-check. Indeed, the AGs Marriage Celebrant website is so very lacking with instructional information not only about audio systems but also about the change of forms.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Thank you

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 03 November 2014 20:20**

Could the names of the witnesses to a marriage be preprinted on the Form 16. The data is already there online.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 03 November 2014 18:08**

Can the AG's MLCS be persuaded to allow the old forms to be used for maybe another 6 months or so?

Many celebrants have weddings booked 12 - 18 months in advance anyway and the old forms have already been signed and lodged.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

COCA COMMENT: Any Notice of Intended Marriage Forms lodged before the 1st January 2015 continue to be valid for 18 months from the date lodged.

• **Monday, 03 November 2014 17:53**

Could the NOIM & Marriage Certificate & DONLI be created as actual forms so one can 'tab' between them in a logical order. This won't affect the ability to handwrite should a couple/celebrant choose to do so.

NOIM: The Bride & bridegroom columns need to be wider, making the 'instructions' column to the left narrower. The amount of space given to the ID & supporting documents is way too much. The formatting on the Marriage Cert & DONLI leaves much to be desired.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 03 November 2014 14:44**

All the forms seem to have less space for details when filling them out. The back of Form 14 and the writing on there is very difficult to read.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 03 November 2014 10:14**

I am puzzled by the fact that we have new forms originating from Canberra but here in Victoria if we are using the Online portal to also submit Marriage details it is still in the old format. When will the two departments speak to one another??

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 03 November 2014 10:14**

NOIM: Is a shambles. Clarification on wording of children of previous marriage to include children of marrying couple. The current wording is ambiguous

DECLARATION: this is also duplicating work on the new form and did this form really need to be changed and have a name change as well?

TRANSFERRING OF DATA: why won't the typed data transfer onto the printed documents?

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 31 October 2014 16:58**

1. Not happy about money wasted by not being able to use up current materials. It's not as if they have changed dramatically.

2. I agree with all comments about the redesign of the NOIM which makes lots of space for ID verification and still expects Parent names, Court details, etc, to fit in a single line.

3. Seems clear that no-one has tried to complete the NOIM as a type of edit procedure.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Tuesday, 21 October 2014 15:48**

I do not like the new forms as I prefer to type information on the forms rather than handprint. It saves time and is much easier to read by all parties, including the Registrar of Births Deaths & Marriages, as not everyone has great handwriting, and is also more professional. A celebrant may also prepare the (previous Form 14) Declaration from the information on the Notice of Intended Marriage form, which is then confirmed and endorsed by the parties.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Saturday, 18 October 2014 20:29**

This is ridiculous - the AG are the ones who manage the Marriage Act NOT BDMs. The latter have NO jurisdiction under law to reject a ceremony performed under Canberra's instructions. I am stunned and amazed that a BDM can intimidate a Celebrant in that manner and I wonder if COCA will raise a formal complaint on behalf of ALL of us.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Wednesday, 15 October 2014 07:49**

The Act requires only that the celebrant be satisfied as to the identity of the parties to the marriage:

75 Chaplain to be satisfied of parties' identity ..... Page 53  
42 (8) (a) Notice to be given and declaration made ..... Page 41/42 and have no reason to believe the information given "contains a false statement or an error or is defective"  
42 (8) (b) Notice to be given and declaration made ..... Page 42

Therefore the specific question required by law would be:  
Is the celebrant satisfied as to the identity of the parties? Yes /No

Then a place for noting specific ID is really For Celebrant Use Only". This would encourage best practice of sighting photo ID or if not available several other forms of ID, but does not need to take as much room for specific examples. Rather allow the celebrant to a heading Bride/ Groom ID form (eg Drivers Lc) Number.

Also agree with last celebrant re: Space for Transfer/ or Shortening of Time. Given the Date the Notice Received is a legal requirement a second Signature Box beside the "Date Received" would be useful for Transfers/ shortening but also be helpful for best practice.

All forms must be available in editable pdf and word formats, not only to go paperless, but to ensure the registration of marriage has minimal errors - editable and typed documents are essential especially for our BDM scans documents into system.

Thanks for chance to give feedback. I take my role very seriously and hope the Department can use all our comments for a good outcome for all.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 13 October 2014 08:40**

It would be helpful if there was a designated box/area wherein details of Transfer of the NOIM could be entered. So far, no two celebrants transfer in the same manner.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Sunday, 12 October 2014 21:47**

In relation to using an Australian Passport to establish marrying couples' date and place of birth, I followed this amendment with a marriage I solemnised 3 weeks ago and got nothing but 'grief' from the Births, Deaths and Marriages dept in Adelaide. On the day before the ceremony, I

received an email from my Celebrant Association stating that it was not advisable to use a passport as primary document when filling out the NOIM and not to accept a passport or I would run the risk of having my work returned to me and the marriage being invalid. I had contacted the AG dept to clarify this amendment prior to accepting the passport within the required time frame and was told that it would be fine as I was completing the NOIM after 1st July, which I duly accepted. After receiving the email from Cel Assn of SA, I rang Births Deaths and Marriages in Adelaide and was told that I was not allowed to accept a passport under any circumstances as primary documents unless the person was born overseas. When I mentioned that her view was totally different to the understanding I was told from AG's dept, she said she would check with her superior. On returning to my call, I was told that if the passport was my main form of ID, then I would have to refill the form using the birth certificate. I said the reason I used a passport was that the bride had a very nasty break up of her previous relationship and her personal documents were all destroyed, except her passport which I said was fine to use. I was then informed by the officer at BDM that in that case, the marriage would have to be postponed until she could acquire a copy from them. Of course on the wedding eve, that put me into complete panic mode, with so many emotions running through my head, 'what would the bride and groom say if I rang them and said the wedding couldn't happen, not to mention the financial loss they could suffer from cancelled venue, reception and advising the guests, many of which travelled some distance to be at the wedding'. Anyway, I then, in a state of stress and anxiety, rang the AG's dept in Canberra again and related my tale to the officer in that dept and she said that the information given to me from BDM was totally incorrect and that accepting a passport would be fine. I said about how they said that the marriage may be invalid if I continued without a birth certificate and she replied that the wedding would not be invalid, and that if I had any problems, to contact her straight away and she would handle the situation from her office. The wedding went off without another hitch, and the bride and groom were very happy. Monday morning, I forwarded the paperwork to BDM. The following week I received a letter from BDM stating all of the sections of the act, (prior to the amendments) and stating that I had not followed the correct legal procedure and that in future this must be followed etc. so I called the officer who wrote the letter and she said, (quite rudely), 'look! the wedding has been registered, but you haven't followed the legal requirements and if this happens again we will have to take it further'. I seriously couldn't be bothered with arguing with her any more, so I just emailed the AG dept with the scenario and left it in their hands. So, I do hope that no other celebrants have to go through this nightmare before BDM get their understanding to match the AG's dept. I cannot understand how 2 Government Depts can have such totally different understandings of the Amendments to the Marriage Act.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Saturday, 11 October 2014 15:24**

My main concern is with the NOIM. The titles "Bride" and "Bridegroom" on the middle right hand side of page 4 are way above the content they are the titles for. That looks very odd.

Second concern with the NOIM is the boxes for those who want to hand write information are way too small. I have met many celebrants in my OPD trainer role in 2014 who cannot fit the information in those boxes.

Also all forms except the Declaration of No Legal Impediment can be downloaded and content can be edited, the Declaration can only be purchased from CanPrint. These means they must all be handwritten. If a mistake is made it must be handwritten again from scratch. Previously we have been able to use templates. This looks more professional, and if a small mistake is made, it can be amended and reprinted. This is a backwards step, and quite archaic. Can these be made available in the same format as the NOIM, as an editable PDF?

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Wednesday, 08 October 2014 10:40**

The new marriage forms need more room for writing the bride and groom names as well as the parents - the boxes are tiny!!

I'm still very nervous using just an Australian passport for id. I always ask for birth certificates but had a couple recently who had done their homework and would only provide passport.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Tuesday, 07 October 2014 15:15**

Why don't we keep the old forms? they worked didn't they? all they have to do is add a box for Australian Passports. "You don't fix it if it ain't broken" is my view on the subject.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Tuesday, 07 October 2014 12:33**

Forms - on the NOIM, the box for Place of marriage needs to be a lot bigger. If they make the space for Date notice Received by Celebrant smaller, they will have more room for this. The Rites used space is not big enough either to fit in Civil Rites According to Marriage Act of 1961. Needs more room for writing this properly.

On the Declaration of no Impediment to Marriage, I feel they should have left it as it was. There is now not nearly enough room to write some addresses neatly and properly - if they are lengthy.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Tuesday, 07 October 2014 09:17**

i often have couples with very long names and i have foun that the long names do not fit in the fields on the NOIM.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 06 October 2014 17:22**

I am reiterating the importance of providing space on the NOIM to record details of children born to the bride and groom prior to their marriage. Having children before a couple marry is common these days and the new NOIM should reflect this.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Monday, 06 October 2014 16:19**

Fathers name in full box needs to be bigger (9)

Notice received needs to be a small box

Place marriage solemnised needs to be a bigger box

Court location needs to be a bigger box (especially if needing two locations)

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED



• **Monday, 06 October 2014 14:12**

A great many bridal couples today already have children when they marry. There should be a place on the forms to put the names and birthdates of these children. The present forms allow for the children of former marriages to be recorded, but not 'illegitimate' children, a term I believe should be dispensed with in this day and age. Also, some mothers were unmarried mothers when they came into their present relationship and have children from a former relationship, but not a marriage. The same should go for these children. ALL children should be treated by our government as equal. To ignore 'illegitimate' children is shameful in today's world.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Sunday, 05 October 2014 22:15**

I usually handwrite my NOIMs but for the most recent I filled it in on the computer. I might have missed something, but I could only fill in one line for the Usual Address for the Bride and Groom. This meant that the information was far too wide for the box provided and I couldn't start a new line (as an address should, anyway). When I printed the information was not visible, so I filled in these sections by hand after I had printed.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Sunday, 05 October 2014 21:02**

Form is badly published no room for writing  
Feedback was provided previously but the commonwealth didn't listen

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Sunday, 05 October 2014 09:40**

Having used the Notice of Intended Marriage several times, and handwriting in full I would appreciate:

1. Adjustment of all column widths, box sizes and page printing areas as all are too narrow or too small to accommodate long names, addresses, countries of birth etc. There is too much wasted space.
2. Elimination of the selections for current drivers licence, proof of age care, identification card etc as these are not required to be produced under the Marriage Act, and are superfluous and confusing for marrying couples. As we anticipate changes to legislation to allow an Australian Passport as proof of date and place of birth this can be left.
3. As few celebrants would have access to A3 printing, all of the marrying couples' details should be printable on two A4 pages (double sided) so that alterations cannot be made once the documents are signed.
4. The document 'referred to in subsection 42(5A)' needs to be reformatted to more efficiently utilise printing space. It should be confined to two A4 sheets thus enabling double sided printing on one page. It is a nonsense that there are six orphaned lines on a third page. The information is an improvement.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Sunday, 05 October 2014 01:03**

I know that you need to make more room in the small box you have to write the place of wedding on the notice form on page 2. Also on the form 16 there needs to have Groom and bride stated where they are to sign. It makes it easy when they are signing.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Saturday, 04 October 2014 10:19**

My main concern is the Notice of Intended Marriage Form - it appears that there has been so much more information required and it is all squashed into the same amount of space as on the old form. This needs to be addressed. If it means that the NIM has to run to an extra page, then so be it. Also the boxes need to be bigger for the Given names and some other information boxes also.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Saturday, 04 October 2014 09:01**

As all the forms are new to me, being a New Celebrant. I am certainly interested in what others are requesting as it draws my attention to the details of the forms. My only request would be that the Pink books remain as is...

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 22:06**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the new forms. I am concerned that after the expense of purchasing pink books, after 31st December 2014 we are not permitted to use them. I would like to ask the AGD why can't we continue to use our pink books till they are used up?

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 21:48**

I have no problem with the new forms being introduced as we need to keep up to date and make progress, however, I do believe that us celebrants should have been issued with new forms at no cost to us because we have old forms that are unusable and it is a costly exercise to replace them. Thank you

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 21:08**

Rather than end up paying for NOIM's through CANPRINT, (because so many Celebrants and one less expense, because let's face it, there are so many Celebrants, that we have to cost cut), I have saved the NOIM from the AG's website, rather than pay for the originals from CANPRINT and because it is easier, but just doesn't look that professional, to be honest.

Today, 3/4/2014, I received a Certificate to say that I am an Authorised Marriage Celebrant for the ensuing year, with a little card that would fit in a wallet, that says the same.

No barcode, no nothing, I could have written that in Microsoft Word, presented it to couples and no one would be any the wiser. Not sure if it is great.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 19:12**

That the Official Certificate of Marriage and the Declaration as to no Impediment have space for Celebrant's Registration No. to be included.

BDM tell me that if a handwritten Certificate is prepared, and is hard to read, they have no way of validating the authenticity of the Celebrant from those particular documents.

The NOIM address box on the PDF versions - should be able to press ENTER to go to another line for a long address, but am unable to.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 18:40**

NOIM

As I have a very Large Surname , the celebrant box is too small also the form is very higgledy piggledy being all over the place ---it is out poorly set out. The previous form could have amended, without a great deal of difficulty to include the new sections as the box for qualified witnesses has now been removed. There many poor design aspects and suffers from bloating

Cert of Marriage

Very poorly composed what were they thinking?????

again this could have been redesigned and amended to accommodate the minor changes now it looks absolutely atrocious

They have not learnt from the 2003 debacle with the Cert of Marriage.

Like the story goes about the hairdresser who listens all the while what the stakeholder wants done but goes and does their way..again the boxes for the signature is too small but have a big section to enter

the celebrants Authorisation number .

It is indeed very poorly planned, poorly constructed poorly laid out, and celebrants should have been in on the consultation stage. Many points lost on this as this also suffers from bloating

The No Legal Impediment form

this is a nightmare

It should started from scratch I have had a close look at this by turning on the paragraph markers, I am mortified at the number of inserts, page and sections markers in this.

It's not hard if you know what you are doing. In order to use the "Autocorrect" I had to delete part of the section and remove the formatting and number of locked boxes and anchors that did not need to be in there.

I find the whole process confronting when we as Civil celebrants are being charged an Annual registration Charge to make celebrants "Professional" but we don't have that in return

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Friday, 03 October 2014 14:55**

New NIM does not leave sufficient space for details of place marriage conducted.  
Poorly set out.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 14:36**

The new Notice of Intended Marriage is laughable, plenty of wasted space that could have used for larger boxes in which to enter important details - they are now even smaller than the old form and it was difficult enough trying to fit the birth certificate numbers in those, also for the photographic I/d most passports have 1 letter and 7 digits no way can you fit them in the box!! Too many pages make the form look far more complex for the couple marrying and the printing is too small - in my opinion a total waste of time changing them - it should be to make completing them easier i.e in being able to read and understand. Dreading using them.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 14:31**

My experience is I find the forms do not provide enough space for addresses on NOIM. The space provided for where the marriage will take place needs to be enlarged. Also when more than one marriage has previously taken place there needs to be space provided for that.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 13:23**

I have a life time supply of the current forms. Am I going to be able to continue to use them or is this change for change sake going to cost me more money?

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 09:56**

New form is much more practical than the old large size. Being able to type directly onto the N.O.I.M forms would be much more practical as would spaces relevant to information required.

03/10/2014 - 09:56 546

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 08:26**

When you fill in details that are a bit longer such as an address or a name, it does not shrink to the size of the box, therefore is useless for printing purposes.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 07:59**

The new forms are not as professional looking as the old ones. The Notice of Intended Marriage has formatting problems. The boxes are poorly laid out with big gaps between those that relate to each other, eg the tick box for the Driver's licence and the box for the licence number.

Some boxes are longer than needed while others are too small. There is only provision and not enough space even for one party who has been divorced let alone two.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

• **Friday, 03 October 2014 07:30**

New NIM does not leave sufficient space for details of place marriage conducted.  
Poorly set out.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Friday, 03 October 2014 06:53**

Once you get your head around the method of doing the forms it is not too bad, BUT there is too many things that can go wrong and we don't know about these as there is no warning e.g. All surnames used to be in CAP LOCK not now they are to be written as : "Smith" but no one tells you this--all the responsibility is on our shoulders ,i.e. spelling mistake, keep copies, I sent in an application for a Marriage Certificate, they spelt the "mother of the Bride" name incorrectly and said that it was my fault and wanted to charge the bride for an amending to the certificate, I had a copy of my paper work (lucky) and after a LONG phone call got it fixed for free!!! I thought that we were all to work together, but it seems that if they can make MORE MONEY from us or our clients that's o.k now I am on my high horse (lol) hope this help as I could go on for hours

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Friday, 03 October 2014 00:09**

There needs to be a section on the gov website that just lists out "straightforwardly" - these documents have changed and list them. Followed by "as of 1st Jan, these documents will need to be repurchased from can print and another list". I also think as part of the OPD they should put this information in there to reinforce the changes.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 23:20**

The new NOIM is very clunky and needs to be made simpler and streamlined. I agree with another celebrant that just needed to change [the overseas passport line to just passport and kept the rest of old form the same.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 23:13**

The new NOIM is very clunky and needs to be made simpler and streamlined. Instead of altering old form, needs to be redesigned.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 21:51**

Just a couple of things

1. Could Australia be the automatic pop-up for country of birth etc.?

2. Could all the Groom's details be on one page-much better formatting?

Is it necessary to ask if both Groom and Bride have received Doc 42 (5a)? Only one needs to have received it.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 21:39**

On Page four of the NOIM I am not able to type in details - only handwrite them. Makes the page look messy! Prefer to type in what I can and only handwrite the signatures, so changing that would be good. Can't fit in Marriage venue as box very small. Others below have made other suggestions to which I agree. The old forms were good. Please rectify these. I haven't got any other changes of forms so the Marriage Cert and stat dec are still fine. At least you are trying!

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 21:17**

Do the churches and other religious places pay for the religious celebrant's registration's fees? The new NOIM is being partially duplicated with asking if related on page four, and another form to be filled out asking the same, but will have to fill both sections in, in the new year, will it be changed again? Do religious celebrants have to do OPD?

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

COCA RESPONSE: No the 23,000 + religious marriage celebrants of Recognised Religions (Subdivision A) and 700+ BDM Registry Office Marriage Officers (Subdivision B) do not pay the Annual Fee, nor are these celebrants required to do any prior Marriage Law training nor are they required to do any specified number of hours of professional development to maintain their marriage appointments.

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Less forms would be great if possible as there is so much duplication.

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I believe the Nomination of Intention to marry form, the formatting generally, particularly names boxes need to be bigger This includes Parents names etc I think also the area for names on the declarations as well may need to be bigger. As celebrants we are marrying people from Asia and over seas where there names generally are longer than the traditional western names??

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In my opinion the new Notice of Intent to Marry Form has some positive improvements such as now being able to record drivers licence and passport details. There are however some changes that could be made. The text boxes are now smaller and this makes writing the relevant information in these spaces quite a challenge. I think the layout could be refined to allow for larger text boxes. Thanks for the opportunity to express my opinion.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 18:51**

NOIM page 4 Celebrants only section. Date box ridiculous size. Place marriage solemnised woefully inadequate.( way too small) Other forms appear to be acceptable.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 18:35**

My concern over the new NOIM form is that the boxes on page two for completion of ID document numbers identification are too small. A passport number does not fit in and this makes it difficult to keep the numbers compact & legible. Page two could be redesigned to allow these numbers to be clearly written. Same with the recognition of divorce certificates. If both parties are divorced the numbers do not fit into the boxes provided making us write over the box or splitting the number. Not a professional or legible finish for the relevant departments to record with their data entry.

Thank you

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Friday, 03 October 2014 06:53**

Once you get your head around the method of doing the forms it is not to bad, BUT there is to many things that can go wrong and we don't know about these as there is no warning e.g. All surname use to be in CAP LOCK not now they are to be written as : "Smith" but no one tells you this--all the responsibility is on our shoulders ,i.e. spelling mistake, keep copies, I sent in an application for a Marriage Certificate, they spelt the "mother of the Bride" name incorrectly and said that it was my fault and wanted to charge the bride for an amending to the certificate, I had a copy of my paper work (lucky) and after a LONG phone call got it fixed for free!!! I thought that we were all to work together, but it seems that if they can make MORE MONEY from us or our clients that's o.k now I am on my high horse (lol) hope this help as I could go on for hours

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Friday, 03 October 2014 00:09**

There needs to be a section on the gov website that just lists out "straightforwardly" - these documents have changed and list them. Followed by "as of 1st Jan, these documents will need to be repurchased from can print and another list". I also thing as part of the OPD they should put this information in there to reinforce the changes.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 23:20**

The new NOIM is very clunky and needs to be made simpler and streamlined. I agree with another celebrant that just needed to change the overseas passport line to just passport and kept the rest of old form the same.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 23:13**

The new NOIM is very clunky and needs to be made simpler and streamlined. Instead of altering old form, needs to be redesigned.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 21:51**

Just a couple of things

1. Could Australia be the automatic pop-up for country of birth etc.?
2. Could all the Groom's details be on one page-much better formatting?

Is it necessary to ask if both Groom and Bride have received Doc 42 (5a)? Only one needs to have received it.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 21:39**

On Page four of the NOIM I am not able to type in details - only handwrite them. Makes the page look messy! Prefer to type in what I can and only handwrite the signatures, so changing that would be good. Can't fit in Marriage venue as box very small. Others below have made other suggestions to which I agree. The old forms were good. Please rectify these. I haven't got any other changes of forms so the Marriage Cert and stat dec are still fine. At least you are trying!

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 21:17**

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**Thursday, 02 October 2014 18:16**

i have no problem with them, although i'm unclear if i'm still allowed to use my current stock of the (now) outdated forms,

MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 18:06**

Re NOIM: more and bigger boxes needed for divorce courts details for both parties also to allow numbers of divorce papers to be entered on there.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 18:00**

i think the new forms are great cannot see any problems with them:))

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 17:32**

I would like to see a 'table' inserted, with two columns and three lines, to fit in dissolution/death/nullity certificate information. The previous 'NIM' was poorly set out for this part - the new form is worse!!

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 17:25**

Overall I'm happy with new new NOIM however, when filling it on on the AGD template, it doesn't allow in the address for a second line. i.e.

123 Brown Street  
Lower Plenty Vic. 3333

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 16:53**

I am really disappointed with the new forms. They look very unprofessional, are very cramped making it difficult to read well, and there is not enough room for signatures.

Marriage celebrants are a professional body, paying expensive annual fees and I believe they deserve better than the cobbled together, unprofessional New Marriage forms. It is embarrassing to be asking couples to read and sign these forms.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 16:42**

I am using a computer program that I bought sometime ago. The change of form will require me to either submit hand written form or buy another program.

If it is not necessary to change the form then why change it. There is hardly much change in the new form anyway.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

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Official Certificate of Marriage top section could do with a review  
the rest of the forms are fine

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COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 14:46**

There is still insufficient space to enter the Court location for dissolution or nullity - especially if both Bride & Groom have been previously married.

I always include the Ref No from the Divorce Cert or Death Cert, although not being a requirement - I believe that it validates the authority. As Drivers Licence No, proof of age / ID no, Have become so important WHY isn't the Dissolution?

The downloaded copy I have puts the BRIDE / GROOM Column under the Place Solemnised.

Place Marriage Solemnised is too small.

The whole layout of Page 4 is very clumsy looking, my 9 year old grandchild could present a more professional looking document.

HOWEVER, 10/10 for finally spelling "solemnised" & "authorised" correctly!

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 14:37**

Im sure you have heard it many times before, the setting out of the back of the NoIM is disgusting!

It is very poorly lined up and to think this has been professionally designed is a disgrace, my 12yr old could have done better.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 14:34**

The space allocated for where the marriage was solemnized is far too small to contain ceremony venue details in full.

The space for the date the marriage took place is disproportionately large considering the paucity of information which needs to be written there.

The same goes for the box in which we write under which Rites/ Marriage Act the marriage has been solemnised - far too much space for little info required.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 14:19**

Notice of Intended Marriage form:

Too much space wasted in the side margins, not enough space allotted to write the required information on front page.

Back page - Insufficient space to record detail of two divorce proceedings.

No space to record Change of Name details

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 14:18**

On the NIM I need four lines for my address and only three are provided. I use an Apple Mac and on the form I cannot use two address lines for the couple a only one is available. Difficult to fit in two separate divorce locations in the space provided

It has never been clarified if both a passport and drivers licence are necessary.

I would like a form I can type on before printing for the Stat Dec and Marriage Certificate. I have an injury that makes handwriting difficult.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 14:13**

At first annoyed with the changes, as I could not see the relevance. With one exception, page 4 of the NOIM.

However, What they should do, is REDUCE the length of the 'Date notice received by celebrant', and INCREASE the box where we have to write the 'Place of Marriage'. This area is far to small for most of the wedding venues and locations.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 13:47**

I understand that the forms are already in print. They're available on the AGD website. Perhaps a little late for consultation. Again we have to dispose of stationery that we have purchased and buy new stationery

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 13:44**

Re New NOIM form:

1. Font on new form is unattractive & harder to read - font on old form is much more clear.
2. The 3 boxes across the top (For Celebrants/ Celebrant Details/Official Use) could be smaller & thus free up some space on the page.
3. Inadequate space to record Bride & Groom details.
4. Insufficient space to record divorce details, especially if both parties have been divorced.
5. Right hand side of "Rites used" box should line up with "Date marriage solemnised" box because it looks unprofessional.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 13:28**

How hard is it to just adapt the existing forms? I don't believe that anybody with a few basic computer skills can't tidy up the NOIM and the Form 14/16. They are atrocious, and like everybody else, I am continuing to use the old ones until the new ones are amended satisfactorily - or 1 January whichever is the sooner.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 13:24**

May I offer a Conflict Resolution Celebrancy sandwich?

POSITIVE: Consistency has been achieved with 's' instead of 'z' in solemnise(d), authorise(d), formalise(s), symbolise(d) etc. Many thanks.

NEGATIVE: Form 16 - Official Certificate of Marriage - omission at (Signature of Celebrant) /why &/or where is the No. .... for the Celebrant's AG number?

POSITIVE: Form 14 Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage replacing original. The prerequisite to completing this new format if hand written is a lesson in neatness, a fine tip pen and micro capitals!!!

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 13:08**

page 3:

conjugal status - can't we replace never validly married with single??

birthplace in australia - nsw bdm prefer the suburb to the city eg st leonards rather than sydney

mothers maiden name - needs to spell out that they want first names as well as maiden name

page 4:

date notice received by celebrant - box far too long

place marriage solemnised - box far too small

for foreign passports - need a box in which to write the country of passport

need bigger box for celebrant's signature

layout of page 4 is really bad - too crammed on lhs, and too much space on rhs

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 12:56**

Re New Forms

The proposal that an Australian passport be acceptable as proof of identity, and place and date of birth. Sounds straightforward, but celebrants will have no way of verifying parents full names and place of birth. We will have to rely entirely on what parent details the couple enter on the NOIM, and, as we are fully aware, this is not always the same as on the birth certificate. This will diminish the importance of Marriage Certificates in family history research for future generations.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 12:29**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. The current Notice has been in use for many years, easy to complete, it should remain the same, except for the passport section, delete the words 'overseas' and the country of issue inserted in place thereof.

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Thursday, 02 October 2014 12:02**

If we are talking about the NOIM how about making the spaces to input birth certificate or passport number a lot bigger.  
also include spaces for the parents details e.g., deceased or alive

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Wednesday, 01 October 2014 20:49**

- 1.Can there be provision on the NOIM for children of the marrying couple to be registered and a place for their birth certificates to be recorded.This is becoming a more frequent occurrence.
- 2.Provision for all of the information on the documents to automatically move with the documents to be printed.
- 3.Can it be made easier to download completed documents with Registration numbers on them when submitting a marriage on eregistry

COMMONWEALTH MARRIAGE CELEBRANT - NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED

**Wednesday, 01 October 2014 10:25**

New Marriage Forms - no-one likes change, but change is the only way we move forward and develop. What is not beneficial in change management is surprises. When it comes as a surprise then it means the stakeholders are not properly informed. The surprise with the most recent form changed quickly turned to shock as we saw disgracefully and unprofessionally cobbled together forms being put forward. In discussions with my state BDM , they too had this 'form shock' as they discovered only the day before that new forms were being released. And this is after having a national phone hook up only two months earlier. I respect the people at MLCS for the abilities but when it comes to knowledge of the industry, then the should and must turn to BDM's and CoCA for the relevant input and experience. MLCS then need to rely on the BDMs and on CoCA to disseminate the forth coming changes to celebrants. This means BDM's and CoCA are fully involved in the processes, all need to agree on the changes and this would turn a potential disaster into a delight.

Commonwealth Marriage Celebrant NAME SUPPLIED & VERIFIED