

Below are the 265 comments made in response to Question 26.

Please **let us know if** there are comments that have inadvertently been put in the wrong category.

Those comments (80) marked with a **GREEN** line appeared neutral or needing more information with regard to this issue

Those comments (12) marked with a **PURPLE** line were either not supportive of the changes in the Marriage Act 1961 or not supportive of Ongoing Professional Development itself.

	Yes	No	Unsure	Not applicable	Total	Weighted Average
Do you consider you need further professional development to better meet the needs of these couples?	16.15%	75.56%	6.27%	2.02%	1387	1.94
You may comment on the reasons for your choice					265	
Answered						1387
Skipped						10

2	I can always gain something from any Professional Development in this area
5	We can all benefit from further information, training etc
6	I would like some general information about expressed preferences for ceremony styles.
7	Discussing experiences and ideas with other celebrants would be good
9	There still seems to be some confusion with those that I speak to of the Gender definitions
12	I think I am fairly well informed through my personal and professional life (I am also a gender studies student), but I think everyone (myself included) benefits from exposure to discussion around the change in gender fluidity and how to best accommodate the needs of that community.
14	ensuring no offence is given without intention on the use of appropriate language
17	Due to excellent OPD last year through Life Skills Training - Beyond Diversity and Inclusion.
18	Awareness raising of usage of gender terms in ceremonies and language used when speaking face to face with SS couples. This is offered through OPD but never at a time, day or venue that I can get to.
19	We are counselled in areas such as discrimination against race, disability, religion, but there is still this area of how to approach a couple of the same gender. They may wish to be called husband and wife. Their view point may be different from mine as a heterosexual and I personally would like workshops in place that present their point of view so I have more understanding of how to be sensitive when addressing their needs.
20	I modified all my materials and resources to reflect non-gender and I treat all couples the same way so, personally, I don't feel the need for specific prof dev in this regard. But, in general, I'm very happy to participate in any OPD that might improve my service.
22	Many celebrants, as members of the community, are LBGQTI aware. However I did observe at OPD last year some celebrants were totally insensitive and unaware. It is up to each celebrant to bring their skills and services up to a professional level in keeping with community expectations. It should not be mandatory for everyone.
24	Important to learn their culture, special thought process
27	The language to use in a ceremony so as not to offend The how & where to offer same sex couple to stand & walk down the aisle
28	I think all celebrants should be offered advice, education and support when dealing with same-sex marriages as this is quite a change from the traditional marriage ceremony. I am a supporter of same-sex marriage and very willing to perform one should I be asked, but I do not feel confident in writing the ceremony using appropriate language and communication. This is an area that needs to be handled sensitively and with maturity & high levels of effective communication. I have not found any instruction in this area.
29	Many celebrants have expressed concern that they might say/do the wrong thing and mistakenly offend couples; and so there seems to be a lot of uncertainty around this area.

31	Did some OPD in 2018
35	There is always something to learn on how to conduct any ceremony.
36	Wonderful changes. More training on pronouns and how to discuss these sensitive matters.
41	What needs to be done really is the definitions of sex and gender have to be explained. Even in this survey you have used the wrong definitions. Male, Female and Intersex refer to biological states and genetic material, they are immutable and refer to embodied sex and genitalia. Gender is whether a person describes themselves as a man, woman or some other term, it is about how you are socialized to see yourself. A person can interpret gender how they wish, but no amount of lipstick or surgery can change your sex. I'm so tired of the willful ignorance about this issue.
43	I am hoping the face to face in-service will address the changes this year.
45	How to address couples ideas on gender specific ceremonies
46	more training regarding better wording for same-sex couples vows and ceremonies concerning their understanding of responsibilities within their relationship and the community.
48	I would like to learn more about giving to same-sex couples a wedding experience that is as positive, affirming and joyful as a wedding between a heterosexual couple. I would especially like to do this in a way that helps to overcome any negativity the same-sex couple may have experienced in the past when getting married was not an option available to them.
55	I'm feeling confident myself but there are a number of grey areas and I think it's important for all celebrants to be ready and able to cope with the complexities that may arise with the changes.
58	Have already completed further PD on this.
60	As an active proponent of marriage equality, I feel I am always looking for ways to improve my understanding and my products for all clients. While I have said 'no' above, I do believe there are still celebrants who misunderstand some basics as well as the more complex nature of some individuals' needs. Please keep offering (and making compulsory) such elements in OPD.
65	Expectations of different gender roles is different.
67	I have presented a same sex marriage and all went well, the couple were great and understood they were a "first" for me too, but I think some additional training on ideas/wording etc could have been of help.
68	I don't personally think I need further education but I believe that many celebrants do.
69	Language, and further understanding is necessary for conversation when talking with couples due to a stronger political and social conscience. At the end of the day we are people, doing the best we can.
71	To gather information from the couples, I ask a series of questions and conversations ensue from which I glean relevant information to enable me to write a personal ceremony. I am assuming that this exercise will be the same for same sex couples, but would like advice and perhaps information from Celebrants who have already performed these ceremonies. My first will be in August 2019.

73	I believe all couples deserve equal treatment, regardless of any personal religious, sexual or other preferences. I am open to any training offered in relation to marriage equality & believe continuous learning around this & any celebrancy related topics to be very positive & vital to personal & professional development.
77	As a qualified OPD trainer, I have had numerous discussions and enquiries from celebrants which have concerned me, particularly with sex discrimination, even from marriage celebrants who have only the best intention towards their couples. Further education regarding the understanding of various gender identities, emotional intelligence, terminology, and awareness can only enhance a marriage celebrants' role in providing ALL of their marrying couples with a fair and inclusive service.
87	I included further study on this subject in my OPD last year.
91	My Education provider made very cursory mention of non-binary couples in assessment and training. I think some more education for language used, acceptable rituals and understanding legal forms would clear things up, especially for somebody who identifies as binary and has little experience with same-sex or queer culture.
93	The 2018 compulsory OPD was excellent and comprehensive
94	I think any PD about changes to law and legislation should be followed up with PD...best practice for any professional
100	Not really as covered in opd last year but always happy to learn more and receive refreshers.
101	Need education on both politically correct language and the preferred language terms for LGBTQI+ persons and for the various sub cultures within this community.
102	Though confident in my professionalism I think there is real value in checking that my confidence is well-founded.
109	So far so good, but issues may emerge over time.
112	some matters are not as straight forward as previously and require reinforcement and clarity
114	Everyone needs info on this previously unexplored area, so that we are all up-to-date.
115	My OPD touched on this topic and the advice given was satisfactory
117	The OPD I completed in 2018 was very informative and I learned much from it
120	Unsure of how to conduct a ceremony with same sex couples.
121	It's always helpful to share experiences with same sex weddings with other celebrants and update my skills and knowledge, so not necessarily formal OPD. We had a session in our association with a gay celebrant which I found very helpful. Having said that, conducting a same sex wedding myself was probably the best way to learn about working with this client group
122	I support the changes, but that doesn't mean I understand all of the terminology and desires of all couples. The more education we get, the better we will be able to serve.
123	I feel we need to be sensitive to their needs and wishes for their ceremony.
129	It would depend on the standard of the professional development being offered.
131	hopefully it will be in our OPDs. I would mainly like support on how to put together the wedding ceremony
134	As a married person within the LGBTI cohort, I don't need more OPD on this subject thanks. Many of my celebrant colleagues do though!
137	like anything new, any help is appreciated.

138	I attended a 2 day course held by the Equality Network which was very informative.
139	My OPD in 2018 was specifically about relating and dealing with same sex couples so feel adequately trained in this area.
147	I am a member of the queer community and do not need further pd, but I think a lot of other celebrants do, and from what I hear from couples I have worked with, a lot do.
148	I think I would treat all couples in much the same way, but I'm unsure as to whether any same sex couples expect otherwise.
151	It would be important and a benefit for Celebrants to be more experience (by training) about the proper approach for the newly same-sex marriages that we are about to get into. We have the understanding and consideration of these couples on their big decision to marry, so with a little more training in "wording" and "guidance" we should be more prepared for the questions and answers we should be delivering to the newly weds.
152	We are always learning. My last OPD was so helpful in addressing conversations, words, pronouns, assumptions, inclusions, etc. It made me realise the more professional development we have in this area the better all round.
153	communication and expectations of new couples experiencing past issues in this area.
154	Within training modules, confirmation of current wording and trends would assist with maintaining contemporary community attitudes.
157	We may need to learn the correct language as to not offend the couples.
158	My main concern has been choice of language when writing a ceremony. To date, ceremonies have been written in collaboration with the marrying couple without any issues. But in the absence of this input I would like guidance in order not to unwittingly give offence esp in regard to sex/gender issues.
160	If I wasn't retiring in the near future I would definitely like some tutoring on this topic.
165	I have not yet performed a Marriage of this type but have booked an OPD that covers it.
168	In preparation for marriage equality I completed independent studies to ensure that my services were appropriate for all marrying couples, with a focus on gender-neutral language and inclusiveness.
171	We can all do with some cultural training in these issues, as we all tend to make assumptions, and this may prove to be naive or insensitive.
172	My training with Sally Cant was brilliant, informed and practical.
174	It was covered in OPD
176	I am a Professional, and have educated myself in the etiquette of multi cultural and equality marriages and language in general.
179	Have already had some training here.
180	Based on anecdotal feedback I do believe that it may be beneficial for many celebrants to have some basic training on being inclusive and sensitive to particular topics when it comes the the LGBTIQ+ community. I am only personally quite comfortable with the needs of these couples based on experience, but I imagine I am exposed to this community more than most celebrants.
185	Getting PDs re this with compulsory and optional annual PD requirement.
187	We need to continue the equality education in our OPD . I am disappointed we are only now getting online . It is still confusing for me as I don't do a lot of weddings to understand what I am supposed to be doing .
188	Celebrants need to be inclusive of all. Understanding of LGBTI couples is important.

189	It's new so it would be good for more experience.information.etc.
201	Further training on diversity is always helpful.
204	Our OPD covered this in 2018 and I performed 5 same gender ceremonies.
207	More discussion re interviews, ceremonies, special wording, other aspects.
208	However more education around sensitivities to the couples and family arrangements
213	I have officiated at 3 same sex couples ceremonies and have had no complaints but you can never be to informed with change.
214	We can always learn new things about ceremony delivery.
216	I have long Association with friends who are gay and am very familiar with designing a wedding in collaboration with a gay couple. However I would imagine there would definitely be a need in the wider population of celebrants for this training
220	The OPD I attended last year was very good with a video of interviews with various same sex couples explaining how they wished to be treated and what they wanted from their celebrant.
223	To gain a greater understanding of their needs.
224	I think the best professional development now would be to perform a same-sex marriage to get real-life, hands-on experience. Perhaps a PD session with couples who have been married under the new laws and/or their celebrants would be a second best option.
225	Terminology
227	I have officiated only two marriages for SS couples and, while both couples were very satisfied with my services, I would like to confirm the quality of my current practices and, in the interests of quality improvement, learn any additional strategies that I may not be aware of at this moment.
228	I chose a unit on diversity for my OPD last year and found it illuminating and tremendously helpful in guiding me about how an LGBTQI couple's experience of a public display of emotion, and therefore of ceremony, can be/will most likely be vastly different from mine. It was immensely useful. I am going to follow up with more diversity training through local sources.
230	I am always looking to better my professional development
232	Whilst I don't need extra learning on the topic, the amount of questions from other celebrants on forums clearly shows that more learning or guidelines are needed. Even a flat statement of 'treat all couple equally' might help with the confusion.
233	Always open to help.
234	it was a topic of my 2018OPD 2 hours.The social and cultural impact of same sex marriage for celebrants. excellent course.
238	What we don't know, we don't know. If there is something I should know, I'd like to learn
241	It could be an interesting OPD topic
244	Wished there had been an OPD topic on the matter
245	The OPDs are valuable for ALL Celebrants, to keep up to date with legal & societal requirements and the latest trends, as well as giving an opportunity for networking with other Celebrants.
246	there has not been much on offer in OPD to look outside the square for providing services that meet their needs. What has been on offer just has been too limited in WA to be flexible to meet my available dates

247	Any information to make it easier for those couples to feel more love after all the difficulties they faced will be lovely.
248	There are so many areas where celebrants can potentially go wrong in dealing with non-heterosexual clients or people who identify as X gender. I think some guidance needs to be provided about this.
253	The AGs have already provided excellent support but I would be interested in understanding the different aspects of LGBTI.
256	Last OPD was an eye-opener when it came to language to use around the LGBTIQ community. I would value a refresher.
258	I haven't had any call for same sex marriages but would like to understand all view points.
259	I need some help with ceremony choices, the wording there of , how to address the couple at the conclusion of a ceremony.
260	Couples Can be particular about many things and my exposure to same sex couples is not sufficient to know what is preferred. Build up confidence. Also red book for keeping our own records of ceremonies needs updating. Online might do all this but internet service and printing ability for signatures is a problem
264	There is already OPD topics for this available in 2018
159	There is still not genuine marriage equality in Australia. Trans and intersex people still have to jump through more medical and legal hoops than any other people, at state and territory level. By definition, that's not marriage equality. And there's still a lack of understanding of how to work with LGBTI couples - and how celebrants can help such couples have a gay wedding, rather than the old, traditional straight wedding with all its associated rituals.

1	As a professional registered Marriage Celebrant I believe that respecting the needs and values of all couples that I marry should be recognised and acknowledged.
13	I'm keen to do more same sex weddings however in my experience younger ss couples are looking for a different experience to what I offer.
15	I am very happy to do same sex weddings if they come my way!
16	Religious Celebrants are not compelled to marry couples that are not heterosexual.
25	I understand and I'm happy with the current situation
26	I am only newly registered in the last month so I have not yet done anything as a Celebrant and am actually very unsure of where to start.
30	The needs of all couples, regardless of gender are unique and individual.
42	I am a Religious Marriage Celebrant and I feel confident in my services.
49	I have many same sex friends and I feel they have the right to be married by an understanding celebrant
50	There is a preconception that all LGBTIQ couples are the same,, often you cannot use the same language within their ceremonies as it is not accepted words for the individual couples. The political correctness for the occasional does not seem to have a standard.
53	It is common sense that whoever I marry I treat with respect and courtesy.
61	I led the Equity and Diversity portfolio for a large state government department (80,000 staff) for over six years.
63	I have done and will do many same sex marriages and am well versed in this area. My website has been non gendered since before the law was passed.
64	I am part of the LGBTIQ community
66	If a couple chooses me as their celebrant, it is because of my presentation style, not because of their sexual orientation.
72	Uncharted territory at the moment
74	For me a couple is a couple and love is love in all its forms
75	I haven't been engaged to perform any of these ceremonies as yet.
76	Besides my personal history with LGBTQ people, I used our association's professional forum to consider some new language and the issues that different couples might discuss for their very individual ceremony wishes. I also spent time carefully creating some introductory paragraphs for my first two same-sex weddings. With the advice of my couples, we created language that we all were quite happy with, to honour this new human rights status or opportunity.
78	These people are people and should be treated like any other people. They are not different in any way. And deserve the best we give to all just the same.
79	I have many Rainbow friends and have not only championed their cause but have been honoured to have been chosen to create and perform marriages for 8 couples to date of my rainbow friends
80	I create my ceremonies for the individual couple and this is not based on gender.

84	I feel that equality in marriage is necessary to provide individuals with their right to become a married couple. I have a number of family members and friends who have benefitted by these laws changing. Also, I have been a support for gay couples marrying and am currently working with a couple to prepare their ceremony.
85	I think it would be a good idea to get a survey/feedback from those who have performed ceremonies for couples who now have the same rites and see where more education/awareness should be focused on. Also asking those couples what should celebrants be more aware of to assist them.
88	I am an equity officer
89	I haven't as yet been requested to perform a same sex marriage but have made myself available and happy to do so. I have adjusted all my paperwork and Marriage Guide to reflect the changes. Possibly not a great deal of same sex marriages requested in my rural area.
90	I have family who are members of the LGBTI community and I actively campaigned for the changes in the law. I actively familiarise myself with issues and concerns that might concern clients from this audience. I have undergone the compulsory training (I was concerned by the delivery and raised this with the provider who received a number of complaints).
95	There is not a great deal of difference except for some sensitive issues with family however I overcome and discuss this prior to the ceremony. I don't believe all celebrants are up to this unless they truly know how to engage, enquire and then make the ceremony inclusive so it's truly memorable.
96	Couples are couples regardless of gender and should all experience high levels of professionalism in having a ceremony delivered based on their requirements. This is achieved by carefully explaining what is mandatory in a ceremony and what can be further included to personalise such a significant occasion and make it memorable for the right reasons.
97	All couples are different and the same?
98	you have either got it or not
104	I understand what's needed and by talking with couples am perfectly able to perform the ceremonies
105	Same sex couples are the same as other couples. In fact, they are less demanding and more appreciative.
106	As registered "Religious Marriage Celebrant" - I find people are confused by the term and think we are aligned with a church etc. Perhaps the word "Lay Religious" might be a better term?
107	I treat all people the same, I do not care who or what they may wish to be.
108	For same sex couples I'm ok with them, I try all the same as I am married to a woman so have a better understanding of their needs.
110	In my opinion Marriage between a man and a woman, and Two males and two females are the same They have chosen to marry because of their Love for each other
111	I have worked as a Social Worker for the last 20 years and am quite experienced in working with a range of diverse people
113	2018 OPD included same sex marriage information - which was really basic and did not provide any real value to me.
118	Being a financial member of an association gives me great access to thoughts, ideas and questions that arise. The legislation is fairly clear and common sense does the rest.
119	Part of my ordination vows is that I do not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, creed, religious or gender preference.
124	I had the benefit of extensive training, in relationship development & life skills, prior to becoming a Celebrant.

130	I am totally comfortable with my work in this area, with communication with all my couples and with the options I offer them.
132	The sex/gender of my couples doesn't make any difference to me whatsoever. It's not my relationship, who am I to judge?
133	I believe in equality and think it was poor that they allowed one person to take it out and then to charge horrendous cost to have everyone's approval what rot
140	have not done any same sex marriages as yet
145	I have always treated all people equally.
146	none
150	All celebrants should accept couples for who they are not what they are
155	I was not against marriage equality, however, it has not opened up a new market place for me. The LGBT community have their own directory for all services that they use. Not many go outside that directory due to the disgracefully way some service providers have treated them in the open community.
161	Readily available.
178	People are people!
184	Dont perform SSM so any training is not relevant to myself and other Religious Celebrants
186	I registered as a "Religious" Marriage Celebrant to limit ceremonies to heterosexual couples.
190	I think I have enough experience to manage each couple as they present.
191	Any couple getting married get respect and a personal service from me.
195	I think it's pretty clear. I have already conducted a same sex marriage.
196	i feel Confident to do that type of wedding
198	Explanations have been done to death. Celebrants unfortunately make an individual decision whether to do or not to do same sex marriages. As per comments in OPD sessions.
199	As someone who heavily campaigned for equal marriage rights, and a member of the LGBTIA+ community myself, I feel I don't really require any additional learning on how to treat couples.
200	Same sex unions overly dominate the required paperwork etc, to the disenchantment and embarrassment of regular couples.
205	Personal gay understanding.
210	I treat all couples the same regardless of gender. I am a marriage celebrant who believes in marriage for all.
217	I haven't considered treating them in any different way? I have only performed one same sex marriage.
219	Not doing weddings
222	Nothing has changed for me personally. I still do Civil Ceremonies as a member of the new Religious Subdivision of Marriage Celebrants.
235	People make their choices based on the the personality and fit of the celebrant.
240	Love is love!
242	Do very few ther weddings.

243	I am a member of the LGBTQIA community
249	I haven't yet performed a same sex marriage ceremony.
251	Within our organisation we have been lucky enough to share information and hear someone speak about SSM as well as having friends that share their thoughts with us
252	Two people are still two people
254	Based on my personal experience only.
257	Ask what do the LGBTI community want celebrants to know about before they perform marriage ceremonies.
261	No difference to me. It is the law and I obey it.
263	I have not yet officiated at a wedding made possible with the new legislation.
10	Recently qualified so was covered in training
127	Why can't a groom in a hetero marriage change his name without having to pay a fee - not very equal there.
193	I am very much a LGBTQI celebrant. The OPD I did last year was very annoying. It was to discuss the changes in the law and how to deal with LGBTQI community. All people are equal, why do we need to address how to deal with them. I knew more than the trainer and not one other person put of the 15 or so people in attendance could respond to the questions being asked. As for filling in the NOIM, I have found this to be the difficult part. One celebrant didn't respect a person who relates as a female but is/was male by birth, calling her, him throughout the ceremony. This is unacceptable. The trainer didn't know how to respond to this matter. I thought it disrespectful on all levels. I would say I'm fully knowledgeable in this area. Many celebrants had said they would never marry SS couples and now they are actually charging more to do these ceremonies that what they charge heterosexuals. They are not being respectful. Equality isn't part of a celebrant's morals

3	Any couple is just two people committed to each other and getting married. I treat everyone the same - listen to their needs and create an awesome ceremony for them. There is only one category for people - people.
4	It would be similar to all other marriage ceremonies, they should all be unique and cater to the client
11	Having successfully completed two same sex marriages, it was apparent that they were little different to the previous arrangement; deserving the same courtesy, discretion, and professionalism. But I suggest further professional devt could be useful.
21	I have always conducted "Commitment Ceremonies" and was pleased to see Bill 2017 passed. I do not need any further training.
32	Love is love. It hasn't changed anything at all except for removing discrimination.
33	People are people ... most LGBTQI people just what to be treated EQUALLY. If you need to be trained like you're marrying a different species then you just don't get it at all.
34	I have many same sex couples as friends, and I am sensitive to their needs. I would treat same sex couples with the same level of individual service I give to all my couples.
37	Equally for everybody, and all my couples are treated with the same level of professionalism.
38	A couple are a couple regardless. Lets not over complicate things
39	The last OPD I went to, the trainer had no idea how to answer questions about SSM. I am somewhat of an expert in SSM. Stupid questions such as how do you talk to these couples etc was insulting. Some celebrants openly saying if they have to officiate at SSM they charge them more. It's insulting and should be illegal to treat equality so disrespectful
40	I treat all marrying couples equally, and respect their wishes in all areas of their marriage. I do not find anything unusual in their and my approach to their ceremony.
44	I feel that as its about equality it requires no further professional development
51	If a marriage is to be an equal marriage then we should have one law regardless of a persons gender or choice Thereof
52	They are humans in love.why do I need extra training?
56	All my couples are people, all from different backgrounds, and all different
57	Couples are couples
59	I treat all of my couples with respect, regardless of gender. My commitment is to create a meaningful ceremony.
62	It's equality - all couples are subject to the same marriage law so if I'm doing a good job with any couple then it follows that I don't need to learn anything different to apply the same standards and application of the law to all couples.
81	I do not treat them any different to anyone else. My weddings are tailored to suit the couple.
82	All my ceremonies are customised to the client's needs, therefore it doesn't matter if it is a same sex or hetero couple.
86	I have always believed everyone to be equal, hence why I did commitment ceremonies. I am already a successful, professional celebrant and treat my same sex couples with the same respect, honour, professionalism and friendliness that I do any couple. Marriage is marriage, despite the sexuality of the people involved.
92	"Equality" is supposed to mean equal, so why do same sex couples need special treatment? Why should celebrants need extra PD to cater for them - everything being equal.

99	Same as any other couple it's all about equality
103	Love should be able to be expressed to everyone, male or female. Couples know what they want and what's to be included in THEIR wedding and as long as it meets legal requirements it is not up to me to give my opinion on their choices and their love life.
116	I have been a member of pride for 20 years, I do not judge people by their, sexuality, race or religion, I get a bit offended by people that think my gay daughter and friends need to be treated differently, the fight was for equality, what's not to understand?
125	A marriage is a marriage is a marriage - there should not be any differences to how I conduct myself or the ceremony.
126	Are you going to suggest we need training in meeting the needs of any client. The law was changed, people are now free to marry and why do we need more training about how to deal with these clients as opposed to any other that choose to engage our services.
128	Same sex couples have the same or similar requests for their ceremonies. The only difference is they are the same sex.
135	Studying and understanding the legislation, listening to a couple's wishes, dreams and desires for their ceremony and treating all couples with respect, dignity and care are all that is really required.
136	I treat everyone equally and, as such, see no need for more training. The change in the Legal wording is all that is required.
141	I have no problem conducting same-sex marriages and found that this experience was no different to a heterosexual marriage especially when the couple were treated with respect.
142	No as I celebrate the right for couples to marry regardless of their sex or gender.
143	equality for all.... is the the gain for many !
144	I am comfortable when marrying all people Love is Love !!!
156	If both people wishing to marry their chosen person in life, the ceremony still needs to reflect their wishes and special PD would suggest gender differences rather than personal differences becomes the focus. This should not be.
162	All couples are treated equally. Terminology needs to be modified in some cases, but that comes with listening to a couples needs. This can happen whether a heterosexual or otherwise marriage.
163	In my opinion a marriage is a marriage. Every couple need to be given special consideration and attention to their personalities, wedding style and preferences. This is no more or less necessary for a same sex couple. A person who is LGBTIQ is very aware very soon if a person is understanding/accepting of who they are and they will choose us on that basis.
164	I am fully aware of gender inclusiveness and don't want to be told how to talk to them.
166	Regardless of sex or gender I like to think I treat everyone the same. I don't see why one group needs extra PD more than any other.
167	Same sex couples have the same needs as any other couple when it comes to getting married. We should not require further professional development to meet those requirements!
170	No difference in either the legal or ceremonial aspects
173	Developing ceremonies involves getting to know the people involved - this doesn't require additional training.
181	If they are marrying for love is the same for all couples and why would we differentiate. It is nonsense that celebrants need training to better meet their needs they are not aliens Their after wedding arrangements are not the role of the civil celebrant.

182	Same sex couples are treated exactly the same as heterosexual couples as I always ask them what they want. It is about them, so I cater to the needs of all couples respecting the mandatory components of being a professional celebrant.
183	Marriage is marriage and I believe we treat all couples in the same way no matter their sexual preference
194	The same sex marriages are now mainstream and should be treated like any other marriage.
197	Why should they be treated any differently to any other couple wishing to get married, after all we are all equal. The big whoa about being run off our feet with ceremonies was a total flop, I have yet to do a ceremony!!
202	No different to before the change, really. Still people marrying people.
203	If it is to be "equal," then there would be no reason to change anything. There should be no "special" treatment to any couple
206	It's just marriage. There is no difference that requires education.
209	Q - Further professional development to better meet the needs of these couples? A -- patronising is NOT what couples want -- just equality in all dealings. Two men or two women do not want anything more than a man and a woman in their ceremony -- they just want to be treated with respect. Too many people (groups, associations, trainers) have been patronising in their response to this change. There is no professional development for people who are short, tall, fat, skinny, blind, disabled in any way -- why is it that people think there is a need to do this for "these couples". Question shouldn't be asked.
211	As a responsive celebrant it is always about their needs. Equality is about being responsive regardless of what you are presented with.
212	Not at all. The idea of equality to provide the same service.
215	I have had association with gay people for the past 50 years and have and always will treat them the same as anyone else. It is not my business what they do behind closed doors. I do not need to be educated on how to treat a human being. I found it insulting to be told how to talk, treat and use the appropriate pronouns to same sex couples at a celebrant association meeting last year as if they were something extra special to be treated different to anybody else. This has now gone too far in the other direction. People are human beings I treat all the same.
218	Gender should NOT make a difference for any couple marrying. They are simply a couple in love, who opt to 'legalize' that love. As ALL couples are individuals, with individual needs, their needs are met through meetings and further discussions throughout the entire Wedding process. For a Celebrant who's never met a non-hetro person before, they may feel a little curious at first, though they'll soon realize their needs, dreams & concerns are not based around their genitals...but around the nerves & dreams of ALL humans. Plus, they're unlikely to be approached in the first place, so will probably never have to face the situation. This same reasoning had me dismayed Celebrants were given government support in maintaining their homophobic bigotry. We're taught not to judge (except if one of our couple is being coerced against their will). If you're a Celebrant who's not in it because you love love, then why are you? And definitely don't preach your ignorant hatred to attendees of OPD classes (yes, one I attended in outer Melbourne did just that...was gobsmacked and furious at how arrogantly cocky he was).

221	Whilst I'm heterosexual, I have had many LGBTQI friends throughout my entire life, so I feel comfortable with them and quite capable of communicating with them effectively. Also, I think they went through this gruelling process, to be accepted as part of the norm i.e. 'normal' in the community and therefore should be treated that way - I really do think that by continually seeing training in how to communicate with them, or celebrants having a rainbow logo on their facebook pages; websites or promoting themselves as same sex friendly etc is actually just another way of ostracising them. They're just another couple - let's just treat them with the same courtesy, respect and professionalism we treat all our couples with. And if certain celebrants don't want to deal with them, then just don't. Sometimes I get couples who I just don't gel with, obviously I'm not going to be the best person for them, I'm always happy to recommend more appropriate celebrants for them eg I had a couple recently wanting a Viking wedding in dress up - not my thing - but I do know of a celebrant who is right into the traditions and rituals of the ancient society's so recommended her to them - much better for everyone concerned.
226	Marriage as defined by our laws in Australia is no different for a man and a woman as between two people.
229	Marriage is now defined as two people, not 'a man and a woman, and other people who identify differently'. It is ridiculous (and frankly offensive) to suggest that CMC should do "training to accommodate for LGBTQI ceremonies" when in the eyes of the law, the marriage is equal irrespective.
236	ALL ceremonies need to reflect the personal choices of each client. We all should be ensuring we meet individual client needs at all times.
237	When two people are in love and want to marry, it is the same need - a ceremony which reflects their love and desire to make a commitment.
239	I have officiated at several marriages for same-sex couples and believe them to be no different from any other wedding ceremony. The sooner we can drop the differentiation between 'same-sex' and 'other' marriages, the better. They are all marriages.
250	I find the question offensive by referring to them as "these couples"
255	I have conducted many same sex 'commitment ceremonies' in the past which are almost exactly the same as any other wedding. I now just include the legal parts.
262	It is a marriage like any other. Even positive discrimination/preparation/language use etc is still a form of discrimination.
265	I am in a same-sex relationship and don't see a great deal of difference between the process of conducting same sex and heterosexual ceremonies.

8	I think the law is a bad idea
192	I don't believe that the definition of marriage should have been changed since for centuries, cultures and religions all around the world recognised marriage as being between a man and a woman. Non-heterosexual couples could easily have had their relationships recognised here in Australia with a legal Civil Partnership ceremony.
169	I do feel that there should not be exclusions for Civil Celebrants to perform SSM - if they do not wish to provide this service to all people then they should not be registered to perform ceremonies at all.
177	What about protecting the celebrant's right to marry only male and female. Due to this change I have become a non aligned Religious celebrant. Because of this couple's are confused on what does this title actually means. AND I AM NOT GETTING MANY REQUESTS FOR QUOTES. I am very frustrated on this point. We need to clarify this more to the public. They see religious and move on thinking that I am a Minister. Please help.
70	I have made a personal decision to provide services to heterosexual couples only. Personally I am offended by the requirement to have to use to term 'religious marriage celebrant' as the term religious has a negative connotation to many people. My faith is about acceptance and love and respect and I do respect people's right to choose, however, my personal beliefs should also be respected. I have been ridiculed and accused of homophobic - someone who is frightened of homosexual people when this is far from the case. I have many friends and family who are gay and my love for them is not diminished in any way. The descriptor of 'religious' should be removed from the title, in my opinion.
149	I don't believe they should be called religious celebrants if they won't perform same sex marriages. They are still civil celebrants, performing marriages under the marriage act. I believe "religious" is putting an unfair presumption that all are making the decision because of religious reasons
231	By forcing me to declare on all my advertising. cards, facebook, website etc. that I am a "religious celebrant" you are discriminating against me for my long-held deep religious beliefs. I was registered in 2006 as a CIVIL CELEBRANT. This is the reason I became a Civil Celebrant, to help people who didn't wish to be married in the church but have a beautiful ceremony written for themselves alone without religious input and comfortable for all members of their friends and family. This was the Governments original reason for instituting Civil Unions!. I am not anti-gay and object strongly to being labelled as such, having two much loved gay persons in my own family. My Religion however forbids gay marriage as stated in the Bible. The result of this is that I have been vilified on social media and my business has dropped by %70 in this last year. The law should allow me to refuse same-sex marriages without fear of prosecution by spiteful litigious people. Where is MY protection?
83	Its a waste of time and money. I get way more out of the legal updates in newsletters from AG
23	The OPD system is a joke and should be scrapped. It is not providing any value except to training organisation collecting the enrollment charges.
47	Compulsory OPD the high cost and choice of subjects is repetitive would prefer associations to conduct yearly information forums on any updates and need to know information sessions Further training should be a personal choice not a compulsory added cost especially when it does not include all registered celebrants.
54	We need a tutorial in using online BDM services
113	2018 OPD included same sex marriage information - which was really basic and did not provide any real value to me.

Independent celebrants are also invited to offer their interpretation of the survey data in the [CoCA Feedback section](#).