

## CoCA Senate Submission Appendix No 5

### Marriage Related Statistics from Australian Bureau of Statistics

#### NUMBER OF MARRIAGES

The 121,752 marriages registered in 2011 represented an increase of 576 (0.5%) from the 121,176 marriages registered in Australia in 2010. This is the highest number of marriages registered in a single year and continues the relatively steady increase in marriages since 2001.

1.1 Total marriages, Australia - 1991-2011



#### CRUDE MARRIAGE RATE

The crude marriage rate represents the number of marriages registered during a calendar year per 1,000 estimated resident population at 30 June of the same year. For more information on the calculation of the crude marriage rate refer to the Glossary and Explanatory Notes 32 and 38-40.

1.2 Crude marriage rates, Australia - 1991-2011



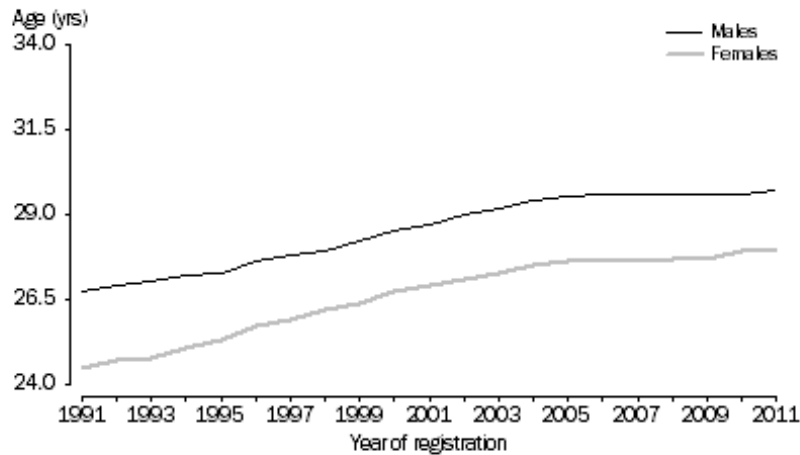
Although the number of marriages is now the highest recorded, the population has also increased substantially over time. As a result, the crude marriage rate is now lower than it was 20 years ago.

In 2011, the crude marriage rate was 5.4 marriages per 1,000 estimated resident population, compared with 7.6 marriages per 1,000 estimated resident population in 1991.

Between 1991 and 2001, the crude marriage rate declined from 7.6 to 5.3. Since 2001, the crude marriage rate has remained relatively steady.

The median age at first marriage in 2011 was 29.7 years for males and 28.0 years for females. Median age at first marriage for males has changed little since 2006, increasing by 0.1 years over this time. The median age at first marriage for females has increased by 0.4 years over the same period.

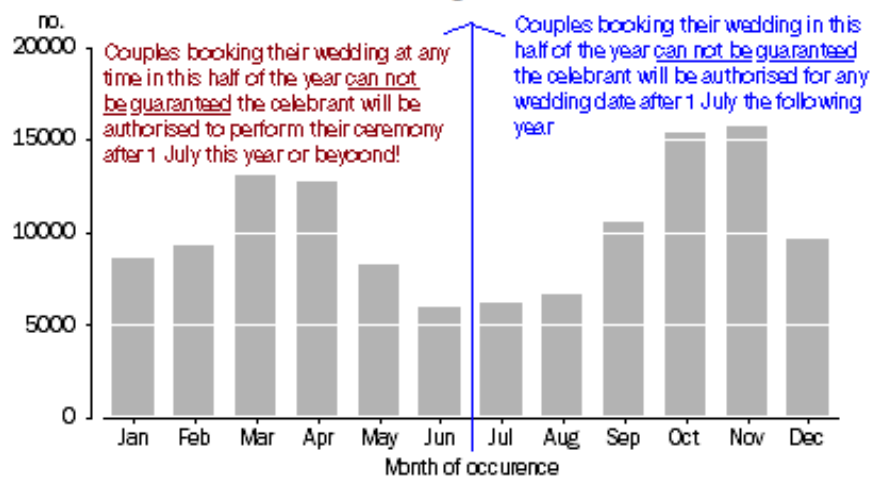
#### 1.4 Median age at first marriage, Australia - 1991-2011



#### MONTH OF MARRIAGE

In 2011, the most popular month for marriages was **November with 15,693 (12.9%)** marriages, followed by **October with 15,391 (12.6%)** marriages. The month of June was the least popular month for marriages with only 5,889 (4.8%) marriages taking place in that month. The number of weekends in a month influences the number of weddings in that month, so this should be taken into consideration when interpreting these data.

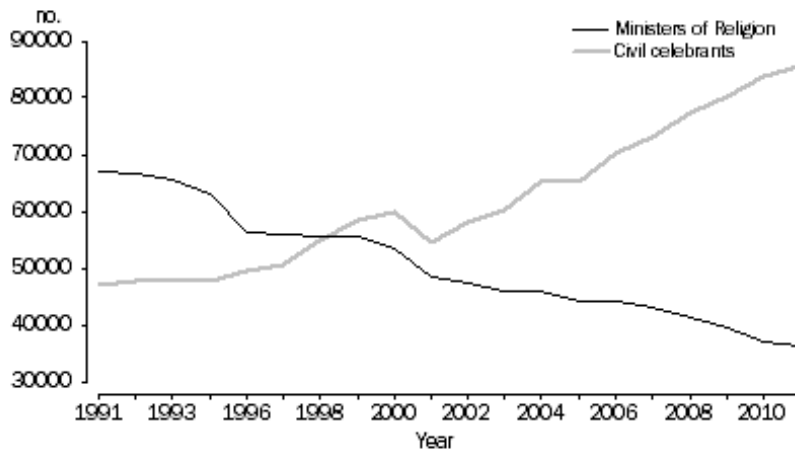
#### 1.12 Months of marriage, Australia - 2011



## MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

The proportion of marriages performed by civil celebrants has increased over the past 20 years. In 2011, 70.1% of all marriages were performed by civil celebrants. Civil marriages have outnumbered religious ceremonies since 1999. In 2011, of the 36,372 marriages performed by ministers of religion, the most common rites used were Catholic (32.9%) followed by Anglican (16.2%).

1.9 Type of celebrant, Australia, Selected years - 1991-2011



In 2011, couples who cohabited before marrying were more likely to marry in a civil ceremony than those who lived apart, with 76.6% of couples cohabiting married in a civil ceremony, compared with 46.6% of those who lived apart.

The previous table 1.9 showed an increase of approximately 25,000 weddings in twenty years (2002 to 2011) for Commonwealth Marriage Celebrants. On 2002 numbers of celebrants, this increase would have represented 7 extra weddings a year per celebrant.

However from 2002 to 2012 there has been approximately an extra 8,000 Commonwealth Celebrants appointed. This represents only 2.5 extra weddings per year.

The Effect of the "Unlimited Market" approach has been to turn what was pre-2003 community service approach into a volunteer charity work, not the intended effect of strengthening professionalism as far as Remuneration for work is concerned.