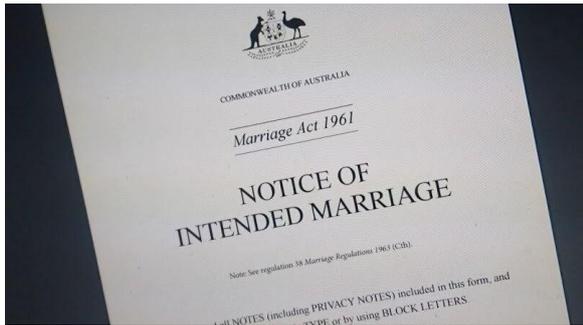


# PROPOSED CHANGES TO AUSTRALIAN MARRIAGE CERTIFICATES WILL AFFECT FAMILY HISTORIANS

## Review of marriage forms – Notice of intended marriage (NOIM)



The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department is progressing a review of the approved forms made under the *Marriage Act 1961* and *Marriage Regulations 2017*.

The review is building on feedback from stakeholders, including comments received following the commencement of marriage equality in December 2017, as well as previous work undertaken by the department to streamline and modernise the forms.

Any changes to the Notice of intended marriage (NOIM) form will impact on other official marriage forms – specifically the Official Certificate of Marriage, and the Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage. These forms will also be revised when the NOIM is finalised following the current consultation.

Feedback is invited on the draft revised NOIM and can be provided by email to [marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au](mailto:marriagecelebrantssection@ag.gov.au).

**Submissions close on Sunday, 28 October 2018**

This information is provided to alert you to proposed changes in the Notice of intended marriage (NOIM) form being considered by the Commonwealth Attorney-Generals' Department that will impact on other official marriage forms.

In particular, these items are currently collected and transferred onto Official Marriage Certificates. The proposed changes are removing several items, and consequently they will no longer appear on Official Marriage Certificates.

- Usual occupation
- Usual place of residence (full address) of the "Parties (i.e. Bride and Groom)
- Father's name in full (If not known, write "unknown". If deceased, add "deceased")
- Mother's maiden name in full (If not known, write "unknown". If deceased, add "deceased")
- Children by previous marriage or out of wedlock

The removing these items from the Form, means they will no longer appear on Official Marriage Certificates. The removal of these items will impact Family History Resources in the future, especially for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Access the following links to confirm the proposed changes.

– Proposed:

[https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/Pages/Forms.aspx#\\_MarFormCon](https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/Pages/Forms.aspx#_MarFormCon)

– Current Marriage Forms:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/Marriage/Pages/Forms.aspx>



These changes will affect the future of family historians; The Department suggests the changes will to streamline and modernise the forms used by Celebrants. However the consequences of the loss of this information will make it harder for future researchers to understand their family history. If you are concerned with these proposals **Your Future Needs You** now to stop these changes and voice your opinion about the proposed changes and removal of information from future certificates send them an email, [you can find their contact details here](#).

**Less than 20 Days to voice your opinion**

Current marriage certificates (along with birth and death certificates) are all covered by the privacy period – 20 years in NSW for marriages (unless it is immediate family member). Stopping these proposed changes will assist your children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in developing and interest family history.

It is vitally important for future research that the information on Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates remains as it is currently written. The current process involving these certificates is effective and the information collected is of significant value. The limited benefit of the proposed attempt to streamline the process for Celebrants needs to be questioned. There appears to be little justification to for the proposed changes; the affected items are considered to be already covered adequately by current laws for legal and privacy issues.

#### **Interesting trend in statistics:**

In 2012 over seventy percent of Australian wedding ceremonies are conducted by civil celebrants, according to the latest data from Australian Bureau of Statistics. The data, showed marriage is on the increase, with a record numbers exceeding 121,000 marriages per year.

But while marriage numbers have been on the increase for the preceding 10 years the last time religious celebrants officiated more ceremonies than civil celebrants was in the 1990s.

By the end of 2015 75% of weddings in Australia were conducted by civil celebrants. This proportion continues to increase.