

Your Commitment Ceremony with a Celebrant

A commitment ceremony allows you complete freedom of choice.

It is your ceremony. You are the reason for and the focus of the ceremony. You choose the celebrant, the date, the time, the place, the words, the music and how you wish the ceremony to be conducted.

The ceremony can be as long you want. If you have guests, we advise having a ceremony which is not too short. You can include any poems, personal journey stories, readings, music, rituals, or cultural symbols.

Family and friends may participate meaningfully in the ceremony. Planning and rehearsal are essential for success, and working closely with your celebrant will ensure that all participants know their role and act accordingly.

The venue for the ceremony is limited only by your imagination – reception centre, restaurant, hotel, heritage buildings, beach, golf club, bowls club, home, garden, park, and former church buildings are available.

The place may have a special significance to you. If you have chosen an outside venue, please select an alternative in case of inclement weather.

No two celebrants are the same and our Professional Celebrants have a commitment to high standards. You need to feel relaxed and confident that your celebrant will carry out your wishes and give you the best advice.

Every ceremony is unique. Our celebrants love celebrating relationships. They consider it an honour to be part of your special day. Please feel free to contact the International College of Celebrancy, or the celebrant whose name and address appears on the back of this brochure.



Greek Males - from Pottery (no copyright)

Creating Your Commitment Ceremony

There are a number of books available. Most of them are about weddings but the content is easily adapted. All you need to do is to substitute “partner” or “life partner” for the words “husband” or “wife”. For example, your Celebrant may supply you with a copy of *Ceremonies and Celebrations* which gives you a wide choice of poems, introductions, vows, askings, ring rituals and includes example ceremonies. The Internet is also very useful. Why not explore the writings of favourite poets, authors or the lyrics of songs?

Finding the Right Celebrant

With this pamphlet you may have received a list from the College. This list is also found at www.collegeofcelebrancy.edu.au > Gay Commitment > Celebrants. These celebrants have expressed an enthusiasm to officiate at Commitment Ceremonies - gay or straight. Or you may have a personal recommendation. The best way to check whether a celebrant is suitable for you is to phone them or go and see them. Discuss the 10 Point Quality Ceremony. Further advice - www.celebrancy.com > Getting Married? (Apply this information to your Commitment Ceremony.)

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A Word for Gay and Lesbian Couples

Apart from a range of other values, in a society based on equality, ceremonies are important signposts. The culture reflects and communicates the values of the community. Ceremonies and Rites of Passage are measuring sticks of our culture, usually involving public witness.

Gay relationships will increase their place enriching our community as gay people claim their cultural right to mark their commitment with a ceremony of equal dignity and substance to heterosexual couples.



Two Lovers - Iran 1630 (no copyright)

**More? - www.celebrancy.com
> *Getting Married?* (adapt!)**

10 Point Quality Ceremony

- ① You are supplied with the source book *Ceremonies and Celebrations* or equivalent on loan.
- ② You are given complete choice of ceremony. At a relaxed interview with the celebrant, you can discuss all your ceremony requirements.
- ③ You are entitled to unlimited consultation by phone or in person with the celebrant.
- ④ You are entitled to an on-site rehearsal, or if this is not possible, at a suitable place (within a reasonable distance).
- ⑤ You are provided with a copy of your ceremony created in conjunction with you.
- ⑥ Your commitment certificate is calligraphied or laser printed.
- ⑦ Appreciation certificates are provided for other ceremony participants on request.
- ⑧ Ample time is allowed with the knowledge that no other ceremony will be booked so close that the celebrant arrives late or rushes out in an unseemly manner.
- ⑨ You have the personal commitment that the celebrant will do his/her best to become familiar with the ceremony beforehand, and will read his/her part in a sincere, intelligent and fully audible manner.
- ⑩ As far as possible, the celebrant will dress to fit in with your ceremony.

For further information and advice *International College of Celebrancy*

Phone: 03 9419 0460

Fax: 03 9419 0783

24 Hour Voicemail: 03 9513 1097

celebrants@netspace.net.au

Box 548 Richmond, Victoria 3121

Street Address: F5 / 62 Wellington Pde,
East Melbourne 3002



Websites

www.celebrancy.com

www.collegeofcelebrancy.edu.au

www.marriagecelebrant.com

www.celebrantscentre.com

www.apersonalhistory.com



Celebrants are also available for
Namegivings, Renewal of Vows,
Funerals, Adolescent Rite of Passage
- and all other ceremonies.



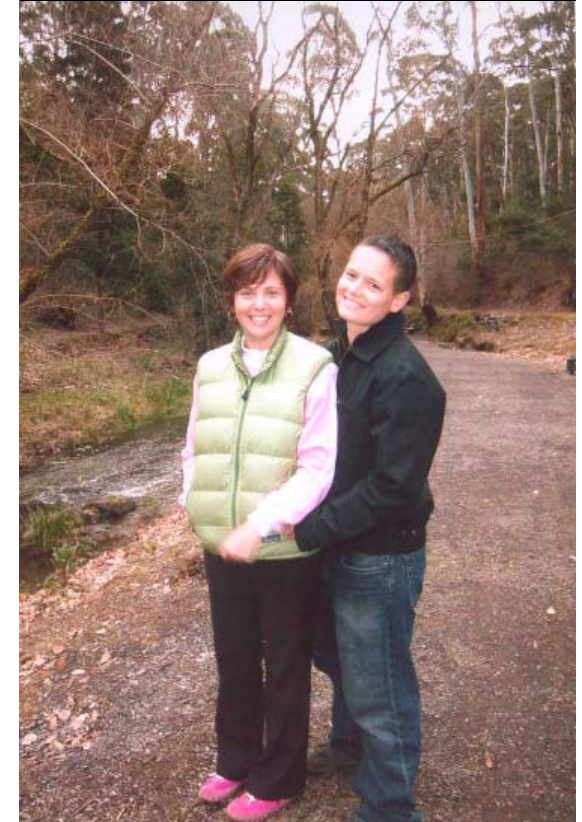
Recommended Fee for Ceremony

\$700-\$1000 inc. GST Mar 07

includes full creative preparation and rehearsal.

Your Professional Celebrant:

Your Commitment Ceremony



*The Celebrants Centre
and the
International College
of Celebrancy*