

## **MARRIAGE CEREMONY 1**

Ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here today to solemnise marriage in accordance with the Marriage Act between **<Party 1 full name>** and **<Party 2 full name>**. I say to you in the presence of these witnesses that I am duly authorised to solemnise marriages according to law.

This is the time you have chosen to **<be married>** or **<become husband and wife>** or **<words to that effect>**. We are here, not only to witness your commitment to each other, but also to wish you every happiness in your life together.

Within its framework of commitment and loyalty marriage enables the establishment of a home where, through tolerance, patience and respect, the love and affection which you both have for each other, may develop into a deep and lasting relationship.

We, who are witnessing your marriage, hope that despite the stresses inevitable in any life, your love and support for each other will increase your contentment and heighten your joy in living.

Before you are joined in marriage in my presence and in the presence of these witnesses, I am to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are about to enter. Marriage according to law in Australia, is the union of two people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.

**<Insert reading – optional>**

I shall now ask you to make your wedding vows. Please hold each other's right hand.

**<Party 1 first name>** **<have you the wedding ring>?** Please repeat after me.

I affirm my love for you as I invite you to share my life. I promise always to respect your needs. I shall endeavor through kindness, unselfishness and trust to achieve the warm, rich life we now look forward to. To this end I call upon all present to witness that I **<Party 1 first name >** take you **<Party 2 first name>** to be my lawful wedded **<husband>** or **<wife>** or **<spouse>**. With this ring, a token and pledge of the vow made between us, I thee wed.

**<Party 2 first name>** **<have you the wedding ring>?** Please repeat after me.

I affirm my love for you as I invite you to share my life. I promise always to respect your needs. I shall endeavor through kindness, unselfishness and trust to achieve the warm, rich life we now look forward to. To this end I call upon all present to witness that I **<Party 2 first name>** take you **<Party 1 first name>** to be my lawful wedded **<husband>** or **<wife>** or **<spouse>**. With this ring, a token and pledge of the vow made between us, I thee wed.

As you have consented together in lawful marriage in the presence of these witnesses and by the giving and receiving of a ring and by the authority vested in me, I now pronounce you **<husband>** or **<wife>** or **<spouse>** and **<husband>** or **<wife>** or **<spouse>** OR **<words to that effect>**.

The ceremony is now concluded. I am sure that you all join me in wishing **<Party 1 first name>** and **<Party 2 first name>** a long and happy life together. Congratulations, we will now proceed to sign the Marriage Register.