

Vocal Events

WEDDING VIBES

APRIL 2026
NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the Wedding Vibes Newsletter for April 2026.

“\$900 for 30 minutes?!”

It's a comment that's been doing the rounds lately—and it's sparked a big conversation. But here's the truth... a wedding ceremony is so much more than the 30 minutes you see.

This month, we pull back the curtain on what really goes into creating a meaningful, personal, and legally sound ceremony—and why your celebrant plays a much bigger role than you might think.

We're also diving into this year's industry focus: Free Consent—what it means, why it matters, and the responsibilities both you and your celebrant carry.

And to finish, something a little special...

Jamie shares an original poem written for life's most meaningful moments: “A Love Like Ours.”

If you're planning your wedding (or starting to dream), this is one you won't want to miss.

Congratulations to the couples married by Jamie last month, being your celebrant is a great honour and Steph and I wish you all the very best.

Nicole and Anthony – 7th March
Tenieka and Daniel – 14th March
Jyn and Tobias – 23rd March
Peta and Dean – 28th March



Free Consent

As of 12 June 2024, authorised celebrants are required to meet with each party separately and in person to establish that consent is given voluntarily and without coercion.

In Australia, marriage has always been regarded as a serious and meaningful commitment. The Monitum—the legal wording celebrants must say during the ceremony—reminds us of this, stating that marriage is a union “voluntarily entered into for life.” That word “voluntarily” is at the heart of free consent. Celebrants have always been required to ensure that both parties freely agree to marry, and this has not changed. What has changed is the way we now confirm it.

Under the updated requirements, celebrants must now speak with each person separately, without the other present. In most cases, this happens when the Declaration of No Legal Impediment to Marriage is signed. The celebrant will then take each person aside—out of sight and hearing of the other—and have a brief, private conversation.

During this chat, a simple and direct question is asked, such as: “Do you freely consent to marry this person?”

The celebrant will then record that this discussion has taken place.

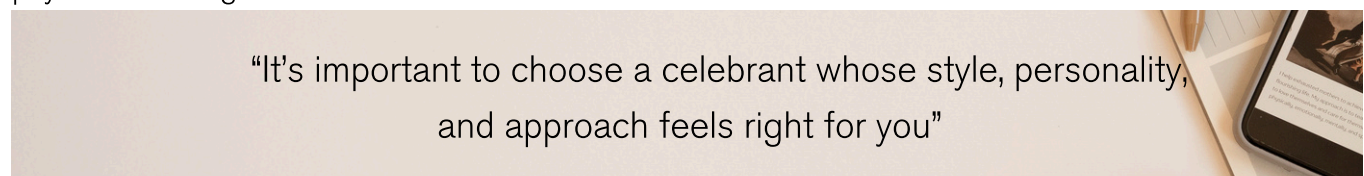
If at any point a celebrant has concerns about whether consent is freely given, they must raise those concerns and cannot proceed with the ceremony. This is an important safeguard to ensure every marriage is entered into willingly. While this check can happen at any time before the ceremony, celebrants must remain confident that both parties are freely consenting right up to the moment of vows and signing the marriage documents.

In practice, it’s rare for a celebrant to encounter any concerns around consent—but this added step helps reinforce the importance of a marriage being entered into freely, respectfully, and with full understanding by both parties.

What does it mean to be a Professional Marriage Celebrant?

In Australia, a marriage celebrant is a registered and authorised official responsible for solemnising legal marriages under the Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961. To become a celebrant, individuals must complete a **Certificate IV in Celebrancy**—a nationally recognised qualification that typically involves over 400 hours of study and costs approximately \$1,700. This is not a course for those looking to simply “dabble” in celebrancy, but rather for those committed to the profession.

In addition to their initial training, celebrants are required to undertake ongoing professional development each year—usually two to three hours—to maintain their skills and knowledge. They must also renew their registration annually with the Commonwealth of Australia, including the payment of a registration fee.



“It’s important to choose a celebrant whose style, personality, and approach feels right for you”

A celebrant must be a person of good standing within the community and is subject to a level of scrutiny similar to that of a Justice of the Peace before their registration is approved. This helps ensure they uphold the integrity and seriousness of the role.

Celebrants are required to deliver ceremonies that reflect the cultural, personal, and social circumstances of each couple. They must present themselves in a professional manner appropriate to the significance of marriage and provide a reliable sound system so that all guests can hear the ceremony clearly.

They are also required to provide information about how couples can make a formal complaint if needed, as well as details of marriage support services. However, celebrants are not relationship counsellors and should not offer marriage advice. While some celebrants include official marriage certificates issued by the State or Territory Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in their packages, this is not always the case.

Although the ceremony itself may only take around an hour, the preparation behind the scenes is extensive. Meetings with the couple, legal documentation, script preparation, and printing can easily amount to 5–10 hours of work—even for a simple ceremony.

Celebrant fees typically range from around \$500 to just under \$1,000 on average, although more budget-friendly and premium options are available. Ultimately, the budget should not be the only consideration. It’s important to choose a celebrant whose style, personality, and approach feels right for you—after all, they play a key role in one of the most important moments of your lives.

A Love Like Ours!

By Jamie Cartner

This is a poem that works well as a vow renewal poem.



The unconditional love we give and receive

A love like ours should not be overthought,
It's not something learned or something we're taught.
It is natural, real, and surprisingly surreal,
A quiet wonder that we both feel.

When we met, we knew right away,
We'd brighten each other's every day.
No grand gestures or wasted words,
Just connection with us, the flowers and birds.

As time has passed, our love has deeply flourished,
Together we've grown, been gently nourished.
The unconditional love we give and receive,
Helps us face our lives and truly believe.

Our journey continues to carry us into the unknown,
We will reap the rewards of the seeds we have sown.
As our family grows and makes lives of their own,
We'll hold hands, smile, and treasure all that's been,
Thankful we've lived, loved and thrived as a team.

Let's Connect

Celebrant | MC/DJ | Magician

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