



COMPULSORY ELEMENTS

As your celebrant I am required to introduce myself using my full name and I must use your full legal names at least at the beginning of your ceremony, then names that you prefer or are more commonly known by can be substituted.

The following words must be included in the ceremony. They are the minimum words which must be exchanged by the couple to ensure that they fully understand the nature of the ceremony. Without these words the marriage is not considered legally binding.

CELEBRANT:

“I am duly authorised by law to solemnise marriages according to law. “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 now about to enter. Marriage, according to law in Australia, is the union of 2 people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life.”

COUPLE:

“I call upon the persons here present to witness that I, A.B. (or C.D.), take thee, C.D. (or A.B.), to be my lawful wedded wife (husband or spouse)”

It is important to be aware that legally there is **limited capacity** to change the vows.

- ‘husband’, or ‘wife’ or ‘spouse’ may be changed to ‘partner in marriage’
- ‘call upon’ may be changed to ‘ask’
- ‘persons’ may be changed to ‘people’
- ‘thee’ may be changed to ‘you’
- ‘persons here present’ may be changed to ‘everyone here’ or ‘everybody here’ or ‘everyone present’ or ‘everybody here present’,
- The couple may leave out either ‘lawful’ or ‘wedded’, but not both.

The following changes to the minimum words are not acceptable:

- ‘persons here present’ **CAN NOT** be exchanged for ‘family and friends’

Signing of the marriage certificates and register is also a legal requirement with **TWO** witnesses present over the age of 18.