



## Marriage Rites of Churches of Christ in Australia

Churches of Christ in Australia defines marriage as being the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. Authorised celebrants with Churches of Christ in Australia are only able to solemnise marriages according to Churches of Christ Rites that conform to this definition<sup>1</sup>.

**Marriage Ceremonies according to Rites of Churches of Christ in Australia are to include the following:**

- A statement of the Christian nature and purpose of marriage and the intent of the marriage ceremony;
- An acknowledgement that this is a Christian celebration of marriage being conducted before God and those people who have gathered;
- Declarations or Statements of Intent;
- Personal Vows which are to be clear promises of commitment for life in which each takes the other to be their wife or husband; and
- Pronouncement of marriage.

**Normal additional inclusions are:**

- Prayer(s)
- The reading of Scripture
- An occasional address
- Exchange of rings
- Blessings or Affirmations by the parent or Parents and/or Giving of the Bride and or Groom
- Benediction and/or blessing.

*Approved at the April 2016 meeting of the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia*

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<sup>1</sup> Churches of Christ affirms that each minister of religion in possession of a marriage celebrant license has the discretionary right to perform a marriage ceremony or not.