

## Ceremonies

AFCC celebrants are available to perform a range of ceremonies including marriage, funerals, naming, commitment and other special occasions. Learn more about different types of ceremonies [here](#).

### **Marriage**

Choosing to have a civil marriage ceremony opens the door to a myriad of choices for a bride and groom. A professional marriage Celebrant will explain which aspects of the ceremony need to meet the legal obligations under the Marriage Act 1961, including certain words which must be stated by both the couple and celebrant. The remainder of the ceremony is limited only by the happy couple's imagination, including the date, time, place, words, music and the style of desired ceremony. The ceremony can include poems, readings, special rituals and/or cultural symbols. The bride and groom may also choose to include family and friends to participate. Most ceremonies last for 20-30 minutes but this can vary.

There are many options when deciding on the venue for the ceremony and many couples select a wedding venue that has special significance for them. Some venues may require a letter of permission or a permit and parks may need to be booked with the local authorities. If your wedding is to be held outdoors, your Celebrant will discuss with you the importance of having an alternative venue lined up in case of bad weather.

### **Funerals**

An AFCC funeral celebrant offers a family an alternative to a traditional religious funeral ceremony conducted by a clergy. As difficult as it can be to discuss death, grief and funerals, a Celebrant will help to create a ceremony that best reflects a life; to remember the person who has died and enable family and friends to say goodbye in a meaningful way.

Funeral Celebrants will work closely with the family to help compose a personalised ceremony, with words and music, and can guide the family on involvement and participation in the ceremony. Working together helps to make the ceremony a healing part of the grieving process for all involved, and Celebrants take many hours in preparation for a funeral.

Many AFCC members have completed professionally run courses in funeral Celebrancy. While some funeral Celebrants are also registered marriage Celebrants, some have chosen to dedicate themselves to conducting only funerals.

### **Naming Ceremony**

A naming ceremony is a secular or non-religious ceremony that is an increasingly popular way to welcome a new child into the family. While not to be considered a Christening or a Baptism, it is gaining in popularity due to its focus on the child and the family unit.

Naming ceremonies can be held at any time and the age of the child or person being named is not relevant. Some parents prefer to have them soon after the child's birth, while others wait until the child's first birthday. Alternatively, older children in the family can be recognised and celebrated at the same time and, in fact, an adult can also be 'named'.

Naming ceremonies can include godparents, mentors, guardians or other special people. Guests and family members can be involved in the ceremony and your celebrant will have many ideas including suitable readings and symbolism to create a special welcome to your precious addition.

Sometimes Celebrants are asked to perform a combined marriage and naming ceremony. In this instance, the naming component generally follows the marriage ceremony, and your celebrant will be able to guide you about how this can be done.