

### **THE 'OFFICIAL' MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

The 'Official' Marriage Certificate has a registration number and is held by the Registry of Births Deaths and Marriages in Australia. As part of the Wedding Companies service, they apply for a copy of the 'Official' Marriage Certificate on behalf of the couple. The application must be accompanied by proof of ID as advised above.

Please note, the driver's licence is no longer accepted as proof of ID.

### **CEREMONIAL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

The 'Ceremonial' Marriage Certificate is signed by the couple on the wedding day and is NOT a legal document. The legal document is the Official Marriage Certificate.

The Wedding Companies supply a Letter of Authority to be signed by the couple authorising the Wedding Companies to apply for the certificate on their behalf. When they receive the copy of the "Official Marriage Certificate" it is sent to the couple by registered mail. This process takes between 4-12 weeks. This service is provided by the Weddings Companies at no additional cost. The cost for additional copies of the Official Marriage Certificate is \$77 per certificate.

### **AUTHENTICATION OF THE OFFICIAL MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE**

Some countries (but not the United Kingdom) require authentication of the Official Marriage Certificate by the application of an Apostille Stamp. Each couple should check with the relevant authority in their home country and if required, The Wedding Companies will send the 'Official' Marriage Certificate to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs to have the Apostille Stamp applied. The Wedding Companies will then send the authenticated Certificate to the couple by registered mail. This process takes an additional 2 weeks. If an Apostille Stamp is required, the cost is approximately AUD125.00.