

The Monitum

From 9 December 2017, marriage in Australia is redefined as ‘the union of 2 people to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life’. The right to marry under Australian law will no longer be determined by sex or gender.

These are the exact legal words, which must be said in your marriage ceremony.

“Monitum” - Marriage Act 1961, part IV, Division 2, Section 46 (1)

My name is Leanne Smith. I am a Civil Celebrant and I am duly authorised by law to solemnize marriage according to the law

Joe and Sarah, before you are joined in marriage my presence and in the presence of these witnesses I am bound to remind you of the solemn and binding nature of the relationship into which you are 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.

The Vows

Vows (section 45 (2) of the Marriage Act) – words to be said aloud by the couple to each other in the presence of witnesses (can be repeated by the couple after the celebrant)

*Full names must be used here unless they have been said earlier in the ceremony, eg. “we are gathered together for the wedding of”
You, the couple, may decide where your full names appear.*

The legal sentence of the vows may appear anywhere in the vows that the couple creates, though it seems more graceful at the beginning or at the end.

Celebrant: please repeat after me

I,, call upon (ask) the persons (people) here present to witness that I take thee (you), to be my lawful, wedded wife/husband/spouse.

And vows continue as personally written.

This sentence can also be placed at the end of your vows introduced by “therefore...”