DECISION NO.

46877

CABINET MINUTE

BRISBANE, 261 8 11985

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CABINET MINUTE COPY NO.

Brisbane, 26th August, 1985

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Submission No. 42227 TITLE: Arrangement Under the Marriage Act 1961.

CABINET decided: -

That the recommendation contained in the Submission be approved.

Department of Justice and copy to Minister. All other Ministers for perusal and return. CIRCULATION:

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Secretary to Cabinet

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION "B" - RESTRICTED Submission No. Copy No. POR CABINET ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE MARRIAGE ACT 1961

- Section 9(1) of the Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961 provides that the Governor-General of Australia may make arrangements with the Governor of a State for -
 - (a) the performance by officers of that State of the function of solemnizing marriages in accordance with Division 2 of Part IV of that Act; and
 - (b) enabling officers of that State to be appointed as Prescribed Authorities.
- The Australian Attorney-General's Department now seeks to vary the existing Arrangement to clarify the nomination of authorised Marriage Celebrants under the Marriage Act 1961 and so that the Under Secretary, Department of Justice can nominate Prescribed Authorities. Prescribed Authorities can be required to
 - authorise a marriage where a notice of intended marriage has been received which is less than the statutory period of one (1) month before the date of the marriage (Section 42(5));
 - dispense with the consent of a person to the proposed marriage of a minor in certain cases (Section 15);
 - report to a Judge or Magistrate, reasons why he refused to consent to the proposed marriage of a minor (Regulation 21A(2)).
- 3. The proposed Arrangement appears desirable as it gives greater flexibility to the Under Secretary, Department of Justice to nominate officers personally for appointment as Prescribed Authorities under the Act and also to nominate officers for appointment as Marriage Celebrants and Prescribed Authorities by reference to their Office.
- 4. Accordingly, <u>I RECOMMEND</u> that approval be given for the Arrangement attached hereto marked Annexure "A" to be entered into by His Excellency the Governor.

Minister for Justice and Attorney-General.

BRISBANE, 22 August, 1985

ANNEXURE "A" Arrangement between HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, acting with the advice of the Federal Executive Council and HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF QUEENSLAND, acting with the advice of the Executive Council of the State of Queensland IT IS HEREBY ARRANGED, in pursuance of Section 9(1) of the Marriage Act 1961, that each officer of the State of Queensland who from time to time holds, or acts in, an office nominated by the Under Secretary of the Department of Justice of that State as an office the holder of which may perform the functions of solemnizing marriages in accordance with Division 2 of Part IV of that Act may perform that function; each officer of the State of Queensland who is nominated (b) for that purpose by the Under Secretary of the Department of Justice of that State may be appointed as a Prescribed Authority under that Act; and (c) each officer of the State of Queensland who from time to time holds, or acts in, an office nominated by the Under Secretary of the Department of Justice of that State as an office the holder of which may be appointed as a prescribed authority under that Act may be so appointed. Dated this day of 198 . Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. By His Excellency's Command, Attorney-General of Australia. Governor of the State of Queensland By His Excellency's Command, Minister for Justice and Attorney-General of the State of Queensland.