

23rd November 2011

AUSTRALIAN BAPTIST MINISTRIES

MARRIAGE RITES of the BAPTIST UNION of AUSTRALIA

The Baptist Union of Australia defines marriage as being the union between a man and a woman to the exclusion of all others, voluntarily entered into for life. Authorized celebrants with the Baptist Union of Australia are only able to solemnize marriages according to Baptist Rites that conform to this definition.

Marriage Ceremonies according to the Rites of the Baptist Union of 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
- Pronouncement of marriage
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Normally additional inclusions are:

- Prayers
- 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