

# Media Release



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## Loves me, loves me not?

If you don't act quickly, you may never find out the answer to this much-asked question. If you plan to get married on Valentine's Day, which this year falls on Monday 14 February, you must lodge your Notice of Intended Marriage by 13 January 2005.

If you are planning to get married on the most romantic day of the year, be prepared. Despite what the movies tell us, you can't just stroll into the registry office or approach a civil celebrant and get married the same day.

The Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages, Val Edyvean, says, "The Notice of Intended Marriage must be lodged at least one month and one day prior to the wedding date. The busy Christmas and New Year festivities could mean that some couples don't get around to lodging the required notice in time and will be disappointed if they are planning a Valentine's Day wedding."

"There are many preparations to be made for a wedding, but lodging this notice must be high on the priority list," said Ms Edyvean.

The notice is one of the requirements of the *Marriage Act 1961*, and applies to all marrying couples, regardless of whether they wish to marry in a church, a garden or at the Registry, whatever the faith of the couple, and whether they have the ceremony solemnised by a religious or a civil marriage celebrant.

A total of 672 weddings were performed at the Registry office in 2004, with up to 16 couples being able to marry on any weekday.

On Valentine's Day last year (which was a Saturday), 226 couples married in South Australia. This is understood to be the highest number of marriages on any single day since Valentine's Day in 1998, which also fell on a Saturday (258 weddings). Although the demand may be less on a weekday, couples should not delay in finalising their plans - especially lodging that important Notice of Intended Marriage.

More information about getting married can be found on the OCBA website [www.ocba.sa.gov.au](http://www.ocba.sa.gov.au) or telephone the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Office on 8204 9599.



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