

Sikh Council of Australia Inc

Inc No: INC9877869

Uniting Sikhs in Australia...
www.sikhcouncil.org.au



Monday, 24 April 2006

Dear Members,

Ref: Proclamation of the Sikh Council Of Australia Incorporated as recognised denomination under Section 26 of the Marriage Act 1961

Section 26 of the Marriage Act 1961 (the Act) provides that the Governor General in Council may proclaim a religious organisation to be recognised a denomination for the purpose of the Act. Religious organisations declared by the Governor General to be recognised denominations under the Act **nominate** ministers of religion from their organisation **who meet the criteria set down in the Act** directly to the appropriate State or Territory registering authority for authorisation as marriage celebrants.

Up till now no Sikh organisation in Australia was a Recognised Denomination for the purpose of the Marriage Act, because the procedure is lengthy, involved and complicated, in the sense that it must fulfil certain conditions such as that the body applying to be proclaimed as Recognised Denomination must be a "Central Representative Body" and it must have a certain number of organisations its members; means that no individual Organisation qualifies to be proclaimed as the Recognised Denomination for the purpose of the Act.

I am pleased to inform that the Governor General in Council, recognising the Sikh Council Of Australia Incorporated as the Central Representative Body of the Sikhs in Australia has, on 2nd March 2006 Proclaimed the **Sikh Council Of Australia Incorporated** as a recognised denomination under Section 26 of the Marriage Act 1961.

Any Sikh organisation wishing its priest to be nominated as a marriage celebrant under the Marriage Act 1961 should apply to the Sikh Council Of Australia Inc and not to the Attorney General's Department. Nomination forms may be obtained from the secretary of the Sikh Council.

This process will simplify the nomination of our granthis as marriage celebrants for Anand Karaj Ceremonies

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