

# Help !

## WHERE DO I START IN PLANNING THIS WEDDING !

Discuss the budget for the wedding between you, and with both sides of the family , setting a budget and working out who is going to pay for what, keep calm and have no expectations, in the modern world anything goes. Remember it is a special moment for your parents too and one way they show this is by offering to financially contribute towards your day in some way.

- Consider your budget – discuss with your parents how they see their involvement. Remember it is a big event for them as well. Start your guest list as the number of guests, will dictate the reception & ceremony venue choice. List who **you** want to have there, plus who you really have to be there, and then those who should probably be there, you can then cull from that, once you know your per head cost. The numbers of guests can also be dictated to by your choice of reception venue, so best to do a rough guest list early so you know your numbers when searching for the perfect reception venue. Discuss the topic of guests your parents want to invite, people you may not remember but who are important to your parents, you may like to consider giving each family the option of inviting X number of guests where they pay the per head cost and X number as part of the guest list. This is probably one of the hardest tasks to tackle so keep your cool and have the conversation early !
- Discuss where you may hold your ceremony Church, Beach, Garden, Registry office and who will conduct the ceremony for you, remember that this person kicks off the days celebrations, going cheap here is not always the best option. As a guest recently commented “You do not know the true value of a great celebrant / minister till after the ceremony.”
- Plan a wet weather option should if you choose an outdoor ceremony, Always Always. It is a good idea to ask your potential reception venues, some offer this as a bonus at no cost, remember to check how much notice they need and what time it is available from
- Choose the date & time of day for your wedding, remembering that sunset in summer in sunny Queensland is much later. Having 3pm is very hot for your guests in the warmer months here, 4.30 is much kinder after all your ceremony will not be longer than 20 min.
- Have you a style in mind for your day, a theme (beach, garden, Gothic, Red & White religious)?
- Create a dream folder to collate inspiration, ideas, keep all your suppliers booking details, receipts & invoices
- Consider if accommodation options for guests travelling is needed
- Book your venue for Reception early as some book out well over a year ahead
- Consider opening a bank account for wedding expenses to allow for better tracking
- Choose your Celebrant or Priest, make a booking early, as popular ones book out early, ensure you meet with them to make sure you are a good fit, as they will help you set the right tone for the day, best to not have your guests talking about your ceremony for all the wrong reasons.
- Consider reception entertainment – Live Music/DJ

- If required book caterer and ensure you confirm more than once.
- What hire equipment will you need?
- Consider hiring a stylist for the ceremony set up, DIY is not always the cheaper option
- Consider your wedding dress
- Consider what type of flowers , remember in season will be more budget friendly
- Book a photographer early, meet with a few to make sure they are a good fit.
- Consider if you want a Videographer
- Will you need transport to the ceremony, reception, photos after the ceremony?
- Bride and Grooms attire – Remember your budget !
- Don't choose bridal party too early and it is ok not to have one at all these days, a great way to cut the hassle and costs, just have your pals get ready with you.
- Where will you stay on the night of your wedding?
- Honeymoon – budget & destination – travel insurance - Passports – visa – vaccinations
- Book holidays at work
- Consider what elements you want in your ceremony – your vows – rituals - readings
- Consider pre – marital counselling course

### 6 Months

At this stage all the major services you will need for your day should be locked in with deposits paid, contracts signed.

### 3 – 6 months

- Invitations and wedding stationary
- Attire for the Bridal Party
- Wedding rings
- Choose your MC for the reception
- Consider bridal registry – wishing well
- Choose bonbonnières
- Confirm reception venue – menu – drinks – table decorations
- Wedding Cake options
- Finalise guest list
- Ensure you have lodged you Notice of Intent to Marry (Must be lodged a **minimum** of one full months' notice)
- Ensure you have started to discuss with your Celebrant the style of ceremony you want.
- Start to discuss with your photographer / videographer what type of photos / video you want
- Do you need to arrange accommodation for out of town guests
- Confirm your accommodation pre / post wedding
- Confirm details for honeymoon
- Select Hairdresser and Make Up artist – arrange for a trial one month prior to wedding

- Work on your wedding vows
- Shop for any supplies you need for rituals in your ceremony – sand – vases – candles
- Consider having regular facials – hair treatments

### **1-2 Months**

- If having Order of Service Booklets – finalise details
- Finalise the wording of your ceremony including your personal vows
- Seating plan for the reception
- Consider purchasing a guest book
- Start to prepare your bonbonnières if you have chosen to have them
- Gifts for your bridal party
- Create a wedding day schedule
- Check that you have booked and confirmed any hire equipment required
- Fitting for bridal outfits for all of bridal party if hiring, delegate who will be doing the returning
- Confirm all bookings with suppliers
- Wedding ceremony rehearsal date booked and confirmed
- Identity documents sighted by Celebrant/Priest,
- Declarations signed with Celebrant / Priest, and ceremony wording finalised.
- Start your list of things not to forget for the day of the wedding,
- Break in your wedding shoes, remember to pack a pair of comfy shoes for when you want to dance at the reception
- Ensure the boys know how to attach the boutonnières – a job for grandmothers or aunties !
- Ensure music for the ceremony is on a backup device, named properly, at least 7 – 10 songs
- If having an outdoor wedding consider water and shade for your guests who arrive early
- Hand your list and your folder to someone to manage on the day of your wedding so no questions are fielded to you on the wedding day
- Remember that things will always happen, however at the end of the day you will be married to your loved one and anything that does not go to plan will not stop that from happening, so just go with the flow on the day.