

## **Proposed Research Outline**

### **Operation of Electoral Regulatory Bodies in Selected Places**

#### **1. Background**

1.1 At the meeting of the Bills Committee on Legislative Council (Amendment) Bill 2003 on 29 May 2003, in response to the concern expressed by some deputations over Electoral Affairs Commission (EAC)'s power in regulating election-related activities, some Members suggested that the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) should conduct a research to compare the functions and powers of EAC with those of similar bodies in overseas jurisdictions. The purpose of this research is to provide Members with information on the operation of the relevant statutory bodies in regulating election activities in selected places.

#### **2. Proposed Outline**

##### 2.1 Introduction

2.2 A detailed discussion on the operation of the relevant statutory bodies responsible for regulating election activities in selected places and Hong Kong, particularly regarding the following aspects:

- (a) powers, functions and organizational structures;
- (b) membership and chairmanship;
- (c) mechanism for conducting public consultation on electoral affairs;
- (d) types of activities to be regulated and how they are regulated; and
- (e) mechanism for monitoring the regulatory bodies' performance.

2.3 Analysis: A comparison of the various features of the regulatory bodies in selected places and Hong Kong.

### **3. Proposed Places to be Studied**

3.1 RLSD proposes to study the following places:

- (a) the United Kingdom (UK);
- (b) New Zealand;
- (c) Australia; and
- (d) New Jersey of the United States of America (New Jersey).

3.2 The UK is chosen because it has recently re-organized the regulatory system on parliamentary elections. New Zealand is chosen because its parliament is elected through the proportional representation system. Australia is chosen because its electoral body regulates not only national elections but also non-parliamentary elections. New Jersey is chosen because it can be useful reference at the local government level.

### **4. Proposed Completion Date**

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research by February 2004.