

Proposed Research Outline

The Jurisdiction of Ombudsman Systems in Selected Places

1. Background

1.1 At its meeting on 15 December 2005, the Panel on Administration of Justice and Legal Services requested the Research and Library Services Division (RLSD) to conduct a research on the jurisdiction of the ombudsman systems in selected places.

2. Scope of research

2.1 The research investigates the jurisdiction of the ombudsmen systems in selected places, focusing on the following aspects:

- (a) the arrangement of ombudsman services;
- (b) the organizations covered; and
- (c) investigation powers and purview.

3. Proposed places to be studied

3.1 RLSD proposes to study the experiences in the United Kingdom (UK), Australia, New Zealand and the province of British Columbia in Canada.

3.2 The UK and Australia are chosen because both of them have a wide variety of ombudsman systems, such as different ombudsmen in specific policy areas. There is also an ongoing review on public sector ombudsmen services in England of the UK. New Zealand is selected because it is the first common law jurisdiction to establish an ombudsman. In addition, the jurisdiction of the ombudsman in New Zealand has in recent years extended into the freedom of information and protected disclosure areas. The province of British Columbia is selected because it serves as a useful reference in the regional context.

4. Completion date

4.1 RLSD proposes to complete the research by May 2006.