

***PART TWO***

**Hong Kong Study Tour  
11 - 18 April 1992**

## **BACKGROUND**

**S**oon after the election of the Greiner Government in March 1988, the Attorney-General, the Hon John Dowd MP, and the Director-General of the Cabinet Office, Gary Sturgess, visited Hong Kong to inspect the Hong Kong ICAC. When the NSW ICAC was established it was noted that to some extent it was based upon the Hong Kong model. Specifically, the NSW ICAC legislation set out the same three-pronged strategy as that of the Hong Kong ICAC: investigations; corruption prevention; and public education. However, it was always made clear that the Hong Kong ICAC had investigative powers that would not be contemplated in NSW and was far larger than the NSW ICAC would ever be.

For some time the Committee has been interested in visiting the Hong Kong ICAC. Indeed, it was a member of the former Committee who first raised the idea. The Committee was interested to see what the Hong Kong ICAC had achieved in its more than 15 years of existence, particularly in its corruption prevention and public education work. The Committee was also interested to see how effective the various accountability mechanisms had been which operate in the Hong Kong model. The Hong Kong ICAC enjoys an enviable reputation as a successful and effective organisation. This reputation was very apparent at the Fifth International Anti-Corruption Conference, where all presentations by ICAC officers were well attended and where the views of ICAC officers were sought and highly valued.

The Committee realised that it would be inappropriate to automatically seek to apply lessons from Hong Kong to the NSW ICAC. It would be important to gain an appreciation of the context in which the Hong Kong ICAC operates. When the Committee visited Hong Kong every effort was made to gain such an appreciation. Before commencing its round of briefings with the ICAC the Committee met with the Acting Australian Consul General, the State Bank's Representative in Hong Kong and two Australian Federal Police officers stationed in Hong Kong to seek background briefings on the current political and law enforcement situation in Hong Kong. Furthermore, after concluding the series of briefings with the ICAC, the Committee met with a number of elected representatives, Government officials and private sector representatives to further place what the Committee had heard and seen into its proper context. An account of these meetings is included later in this part of the report.

## *HONG KONG ICAC*

*T*he best and most up to date summary of the Hong Kong ICAC's history, structure and operations which is available is the paper which the Commissioner, Peter Allan, gave to the Fifth International Anti-Corruption Conference. Furthermore, this paper summarises the development and work of the ICAC from its own point of view.

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