

**For meeting on
on 17 December 2009**

Paper FC 10/2009

Family Council

Research on Family-related Topics

Purpose

This paper seeks members' comments on the proposed framework for research on families.

Background

2. As announced in this year's Policy Address, the Chief Executive invited the Family Council to find new policy options at the family level to alleviate problems related to youth drug abuse, prostitution as well as neglect of elderly persons and children.

Proposal

The State of the Hong Kong Family

3. To gain a better understanding of the state of the Hong Kong family and its problems and issues, and to inform discussion on policy options, we plan to, with assistance from the Central Policy Unit (CPU), commission a quantitative study on "The State of the Hong Kong Family", which aims to provide an authoritative, updated and empirically based report on the families in Hong Kong. The report which aims to cover such areas as family forms, the quality of family life, work-life balance, inter-generational relations, family values, and performance of family functions etc. would provide insight into the changes in the Hong Kong family, the challenges it faces and the kind of support required. The study may include surveys and secondary data analyses of official statistics.

4. In the course of compilation of this report responding to the Policy Address, additional regular studies will be commissioned on a

longer-term basis to facilitate tracking of family development trends in Hong Kong. Towards this end, further studies including surveys, polls, case studies will be conducted on a regular basis to update the data base to provide a foundation for further studies and analysis, and produce further reports on “The State of the Hong Kong Family”.

A Monograph Series on Family Issues

5. In addition to such survey-based studies, in-depth studies on specific family-related issues will be conducted. It is suggested that a monograph series on family issues be published in successive volumes, each focusing on a specific issue (e.g. domestic violence, adolescent drug abuse) with analysis on the nature of the issue, its implications, and strategies, measures, and services to address the issue.

Way Forward

6. It is proposed that the research work be carried out by research institutions outside the Government, commissioned by the Family Council. The Subcommittee on Family Support, with assistance from the CPU, will be tasked to consider in further details the specific research areas, prepare research briefs, as well as oversee the commissioning of projects. Advice from relevant advisory bodies and outside academics and professionals would be sought as necessary to facilitate the research work.

Advice Sought

7. Members are invited to comment on the proposed research framework and the way forward.