

**Government Response to
Report of the Justice and Electoral Committee
on
Inquiry into the 2008 General Election**

**Presented to the House of Representatives
In accordance with Standing Order 248**

Introduction

The Government welcomes the Justice and Electoral Committee's report on the *Inquiry into the 2008 General Election*.

The Government thanks the Justice and Electoral Committee for its considered and thorough inquiry and the development of a comprehensive report.

The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 248.

The recommendations of the Justice and Electoral Committee by nature require further consideration and policy analysis.

Recommendations and government response

The Justice and Electoral Committee recommended that the government:

Recommendation 1

- *We recommend to the Government that it consider reviewing section 197(1) (g) of the Electoral Act 1993 to ensure that election material can continue to be distributed in the final week of the election campaign, but that all reasonable steps be taken to ensure that it is not delivered on election day;*

Recommendation 2

- *We recommend to the Government that it consider removing the requirement for voters to establish a ground of eligibility to vote in advance;*

Recommendation 3

- *We recommend to the Government that it consider amending section 263A of the Electoral Act 1993 to provide for the checks against the Department of Labour's lists of over stayers and temporary permit holders to be undertaken at the time Registrars of Electors are considering and processing applications for enrolment under section 87 (1) of the Electoral Act;*

Recommendation 4

- *We recommend to the Government that it consider amending section 124 of the Electoral Act 1993 to allow the destruction of enrolment documents if they are held as secure electronic images;*

Recommendation 5

- *We recommend to the Government that it consider expanding section 263B(4)(d) of the Electoral Act 1993 to allow information on new and renewal applicants for New Zealand passports who live in New Zealand to be provided to Registrars of Electors.*

The Government will act on the above recommendations by carefully considering the policy implications of the proposals. The Ministry of Justice, working with the electoral agencies, will undertake the policy analysis of the recommendations.

On the recommendation of the Minister of Justice, Cabinet will consider detailed policy proposals. If agreed by Cabinet, legislative change will be implemented through a bill amending the Electoral Act 1993.

Conclusion

The Government will consider the policy implications of the recommendations of the Justice and Electoral Select Committee in their report on the *Inquiry into the 2008 General Election* and will implement any amendments approved by Cabinet through a bill amending the Electoral Act 1993.