Definitions of Family Business in other countries

Mr TONY SMITH: … if there is anything that you could provide us in terms of international comparisons I think that would be useful.

Response:

The European Commission has undertaken some work in relation to family business, notably the Directorate General for Enterprise and Industry of the European Commission has undertaken work regarding the family business sector. In 2007 an Expert Group on Family Business was created, the purpose of which was to discuss the main problems for family businesses in the single European market. The Expert Group concluded its work with a final report which, among other things, adopted a European definition of a family business acknowledging that family businesses can be very diverse: small, medium sized or large, listed or unlisted. According to this definition, a firm, of any size, is a family business, if:

1. The majority of decision-making rights is in the possession of the natural person(s) who established the firm, or in the possession of the natural person(s) who has/have acquired the share capital of the firm, or in the possession of their spouses, parents, child or children's direct heirs.
2. The majority of decision-making rights are indirect or direct.
3. At least one representative of the family or kin is formally involved in the governance of the firm.
4. Listed companies meet the definition of family enterprise if the person who established or acquired the firm (share capital) or their families or descendants possess 25 per cent of the decision-making rights mandated by their share capital.

The report of the Expert Group is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/sme/promoting-entrepreneurship/family-business/family_business_expert_group_report_en.pdf

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Australian innovations systems report

Senator BOYCE: Have you got data about what you perceive to be the levels of innovation within different sectors?

Mr Chesworth**:** Yes, we do. That is in the Australian innovation system report and we could provide you a copy of that.

Response:

The Australian Innovation System Report is available from the following website:
http://www.innovation.gov.au/Innovation/Policy/AustralianInnovationSystemReport/AISR2011/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/Australian-Innovation-System-Report-2011.pdf

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Immigrants' Skills

Mr Chesworth **:** … The issue of skills falls within our portfolio, and should be able to check to see if there is any data around that issue.

Response:

Trades Recognition Australia (Trades) comes under the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. Trades, is a skills assessment service which deals with recognising qualifications for trade occupations for the purpose of immigration. Details of the skills assessment processes are at:

http://www.innovation.gov.au/Skills/SkillsAssessment/TradesRecognitionAustralia/Pages/default.aspx
Various other Government bodies are involved in the process of recognising the skills of potential immigrants, see, for example:
http://australia.gov.au/topics/education-and-training/qualifications-and-skills-recognition
The Department is unaware of any specific data collected regarding immigrants using their overseas qualifications for their work in Australia. The Department of Immigration and Citizenship, however, issues various immigration visas to persons who possess certain skills. The same Department also issues business immigration visas. The Committee may wish to discuss with that Department if it keeps any data on skilled immigrants to Australia establishing businesses.

Businesses and Immigrants and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community
Senator BOYCE: The chair asked earlier about the CALD and immigrant community. Do you have any analysis of the business formation rates of new immigrants or of the CALD community in general?

Response:
The Department is unaware of any specific data collected regarding the business formation rates of new immigrants, or of the culturally and linguistically diverse community in general.

Clean Technology Investment Programs – Languages
CHAIR: And how many languages is that material available in?

Response:
Aside from English, the Clean Technology Investment Programs campaign advertising was made available in: Arabic, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional), German, Greek, Italian, Korean and Vietnamese. The material was published on the AusIndustry website at:
http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/programs/CleanTechnology/Pages/CleanTech-Campaign-Advertising.aspx