Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services'

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Inquiry into Family Business in Australia

Topic: **Family Business in Australia**

Question 1: Was the data on family businesses collected as part of the 2004-05 Business Characteristics Survey (BCS) released?

Answer: In the 2004-05 Business Characteristics Survey the ABS asked businesses to identify whether they were a family business. This information was used to populate the Business Longitudinal Database, initially released in October 2009. It was not separately published in any other statistical releases and was not collected in future iterations of the Business Characteristics Survey as a post-emuneration investigation following the 2004-05 Business Characteristics Survey raised concerns about the quality of the data collected.

The Business Longitudinal Database comprises several longitudinal datasets that contain both financial and business characteristics data.

The BLD has been developed for analytical purposes and is not designed to provide aggregated population information. As a result, sampling of employing and non-employing businesses that contribute to the BLD excludes those businesses that:

- have a complex business structure (i.e. the ABN unit is not suitable for ABS statistical requirements)
- have more than 200 employees
- are non-employing and report $50,000 or less for the sale of goods or services in their Business Activity Statement (BAS) return annually
- are classified as Financial corporations, General government, Not-for-profit-institutions serving households and Rest of the World
- were classified to the following ANZSIC93 industries:
  - Division D - Electricity, Gas and Water Supply
  - Division K - Finance and Insurance
  - Division M - Government Administration and Defence
  - Division O - Health and Community Services
  - Sub-division 96 - Other Services
  - Sub-division 97 - Private Households Employing Staff
  - Group 921 - Libraries
  - Group 922 - Museums
  - Group 923 - Parks and Gardens

Further information about the BLD, including a list of data items that have been released, is included in the following publication:

> 8168.0.55.002 - Technical Manual: Business Longitudinal Database, CURF, Australia, 2004-05 to 2009-10

Further information on the data that is available from the first iteration of the Business Longitudinal Database BLD, is included in the following link:

> 8168.0.55.001 - Microdata: Business Longitudinal Database, CURF, Australia, 2004-05 to 2009-10

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Question 2: Do other countries collect statistics on Family Business?

Answer: The ABS has undertaken a review of international statistical agencies who might be likely to collect statistics relating to family business. The review found two agencies who have collected statistics relating to family businesses. These include: The 2010 Small Business Survey undertaken by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the 2007 Survey of Business Owners (SBO) undertaken by the US Census Bureau.

The review also considered the OECD, StatsNZ, StatsCan and the Office for National Statistics (UK) and in each instance, there were no releases of business characteristics by family business status.