

Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport
Tuesday 13 November 2012

Question: 1

Topic: Family Business Australia

Asked By: Ms Deb O'Neil (CHAIR)

Type of Question:

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

CHAIR: Regarding the consultation for the RDA with major stakeholders, is Family Business Australia a group that you would engage with in any significant way to develop policy?

Mr Atkinson: I would have to provide that on notice, if that is all right, because so many consultations happen.

CHAIR: If you would provide that on notice that would be good.

Answer:

The Department of Regional Australia, Local Government, Arts and Sport would engage with Family Business Australia and related bodies if it was contributing to the development of a regional policy with potential implications for family businesses in regional Australia.

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Question: 2

Topic: Information from Regional Development Australia (RDA) Committees on family businesses

Asked By: Senator Boyce

Type of Question:

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 30 December 2012

Number of pages: 1

Senator Boyce: It would be useful if you could ask the RDAs if individual companies or RDAs themselves would like to provide information. We have had very little information from regional Australia. I had anticipated that we would get some from the mining sector and farming families, but there has been very little. We are trying to understand what that is.

Mr Atkinson: I will certainly raise this with the RDA network, and we will certainly get back to you if we have some further thoughts. For all business – not just family business or small business or large business – we would encourage them to engage with the Regional Development Australia network, and their strategic planning process that they are undertaking, which is supporting development of the regions as a whole and which helps all of the businesses that operate within it.

Answer:

The RDA Network has been encouraged to discuss the issues with their stakeholders and contribute to the Parliamentary Joint Committee's inquiry into the operations of Australia's family business sector.

The RDA network was informed of the Committee's inquiry through the RDA member's website and email news alert on 6 November 2012, which advised of the opportunity to contribute to the Committee's inquiry by making a submission or by attending the Committee's hearing on 13 November 2012. The Committee's website address was also provided to the RDA network.