The Challenge of Workplace Productivity Symposium

New approaches to productivity and micro-economic reform in the mixed economy: with an application to the workplace

Sydney, Thursday 29th Nov 2012
Nicholas Gruen
New frontiers: New themes for reform
The heart of all major discoveries in the physical sciences is the discovery of novel methods of representation

Stephen Toulmin, *The Philosophy of Science*, 1953
New frontiers: New themes for reform
New Frontiers: Greater abstraction

Further away from the market
- More ‘indirect’ regarding outcome
Closer to useful policy levers
How can policy improve management?

Direct approach
• Provide or subsidise management education

Abstract (indirect) approach
• Ensure markets are competitive
• Ensure markets are well informed
New frontiers: New themes for reform
Workers Compensation Premiums
Public goods – goods that no one will supply if the government doesn’t.

Public goods . . . present serious problems in human organisation.

Vincent and Elenor Ostrom - 1977
Some crucial public goods are not government built – they’re emergent
Public Goods

Private Goods
Web 2.0: explosion of emergent public goods

Web 2.0 platforms are public goods:

- Google (1998)
- Wikipedia (2001)
- Blogs (early 2000s)
- Facebook (2004)
- Twitter (2006)

Government didn’t build any of them
The economics of abundance: a new birth of ‘free’dom

Public goods as an opportunity
The non-rivalry of ideas is the liberation of our species

Public goods as a problem
Public goods . . . present serious problems in human organisation.

Vincent and Elenor Ostrom - 1977
Public/Private Partnerships

– Public access to state assets: ‘Government as platform’
  • Release of public sector information
  • Intangible state assets as public goods
– Building platforms that others won’t
– Opening up to global profit and not-for-profit endeavours
  • With global competitions like
    • Kaggle
    • Volunteers
– Integrating state capabilities into private platforms
– Reconfiguring boundaries
murmur.
realtime analytics for staff engagement.

Built for the Chief People Person of organisations who think like Lou...
"I came to see, in my time at IBM, that culture isn't just one aspect of the game - it is the game"

Lou Gerstner CEO
Representing reform

Current standard of living

Improvement

iPhone 4 is here.