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Fruit business family honour

A WOORINEN business that has steadily grown to be one of the largest family-owned and operated stone fruit farm and fruit packing houses in Australia last night won the Second Generation, Formalisation and Growth award at the 2008 Victorian Family Business of the Year Awards.

Cutri Fruit is a business with over 50 years' experience of growing and packing high-quality stone fruit in the Mallee Region.

Minister for Small Business, Joe Helper said that passion, vision and commitment to excellence last night earned four Victorian businesses top accolades for subsequent generations of business operation.

Dom Cutri and his wife Connie branched out on land bought by his father Gaetano, to start their own farm business.

Dom's son Gaethan worked in the business from a young age, and later, his wife Nicole joined the team bringing different and much needed business skills and experience.

Other awards were presented to Thomastown's Pantalica Cheese Company and Melbourne businesses, David Shave Human Resources and Murphy Transport Solutions.

Mr Helper said 67 per cent of Australian businesses described themselves as family-owned, and together, they generated more than half of Australia's employment growth.