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Australia

Kosher Products

1999

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Canberra [AS1], AS

Summary

The Australian Jewish community is one of the largest in the Asian region. The bulk of the Jewish population in Australia is divided between the two cities of Melbourne (50,000) and Sydney (40,000), but smaller communities can be found throughout the country, mainly in the other capital cities.

Jews were among the first convicts deported from the United Kingdom to Australia in the 18th century. By the 19th century there was an established Jewish community, overwhelmingly made up of free settlers. Several successive waves of immigration followed, primarily from Britain and Eastern Europe. The gold rushes of the 19th century were also a source of attraction for Jewish migrants to Australia.

In the late 1930's Jewish refugees, mainly from Germany and Austria, found sanctuary in Australia and after the war Australia admitted tens of thousands Jewish emigrants. In the 1970's Jewish emigrants arrived from the former Soviet Union, and Australia also became a favorite destination for Jewish emigrants from South Africa. In addition, there is a small community of Asian and North African Jews. Generally speaking, the Melbourne community is more traditional than that of Sydney.

In Melbourne and Sydney and several other places there are mikvaot, and kosher butchers, bakers and restaurants. There are two kosher hotels in Melbourne. It is estimated that about one quarter of the Jewish community observe kashrut. Batei din are located in Melbourne and Sydney.

It is believed that the Kosher sector has good prospects in Australia as the general population becomes more aware of the processes required for foods to be certified as Kosher and perceive them to be healthier and of higher quality.

Market Access

All of the large supermarket chains carry kosher foods in their general lines. The main products carried are packaged products although one company, Coles, does carry some fresh meat products and bagels in some of their stores. Kosher products are mostly carried in stores located in areas in Sydney and Melbourne where the Jewish demographic is high. These stores have special shelving put aside for Kosher products. Coles has buyers who look for Kosher products when they get requests from their stores, but all chains also rely on direct approaches from manufacturers or distributors. Australia produces only a small amount of Kosher wine, with just two companies' products certified as Kosher.

The NSW Kashrut Authority in conjunction with Melbourne Kashrut publishes a 'Kosher Products & Services Directory' which lists foods and brands which are certified as Kosher. The NSW Kashrut Authority can be contacted at the following address:

The NSW Kashrut Authority
P.O. Box 206
Bondi, NSW 2026
Australia

Tel: +61-2-9369-4286

Fax: +61-2-9369-4329

Web: <http://www.ka.org.au>

Products certified by one of the following endorsed kosher authorities in the U.S. and labeled with their kosher logo are acceptable in Australia: The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations; The Organized Kashrut Laboratories; “Kof-K” Kosher Supervision; “Star-K” Kosher Certification; K’hal Adath Jeshurun (Breuer’s); and, Beth Din Hameyuchud L’inyonei Kashrus of the Central Rabbinical Congress. Products not certified by an endorsed kosher authority would not be acceptable and cannot be authorized here - i.e. the Kashrut Authority must witness the packing to certify the product as kosher.

Kosher products are subject to the same labeling requirements as other foods. See our Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards (FAIRS) report (AS9033) for detailed information on Australia’s labeling regulations. This report can be downloaded from the FAS web pages. The Attache Reports search page can be found at the following Internet address: http://www.fas.usda.gov/scriptsw/AttacheRep/attache_frm.idc

Australian Importers of Kosher Food

Trialia Foods Australia Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 210
Port Melbourne, VIC 3207
Tel: 61-3-9646-2821
Fax: 61-3-9646-2955

N&E Pacchini & Sons Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 6288
Wetherill Park, NSW 2164
Tel: 61-2-9725-5000
Fax: 61-2-9725-5094

Basil's Pty Ltd
P.O. Box 1054
Coorparoo DC, QLD 4151
Tel: 61-7-3398-4874/2932
Fax: 61-7-3395-3073

Supermarket Chains

Woolworths Ltd
Locked Bag 11
PO Fairfield, NSW 2165
Tel: 61-2-9892-7111
Fax: 61-2-9892-7171

Franklins Limited
P.O. Box 19
Greenacre, NSW 2190
Tel: 61-2-9722-1400
Fax: 61-2-9722-1733

Coles Supermarkets
P.O. Box 480
Glen Iris, VIC 3146
Tel: 61-3-9829-5111
Fax: 61-3-9829-6787

Davids Ltd
46-48 Pyrmont Bridge Road
Pyrmont, NSW 2009
Tel: 61-2-9298-3222
Fax: 61-2-9298-3200