

PACIFIC KAVA EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA

A KAVA PILOT PROGRAM - Q2 UPDATE

Australia's Kava Pilot Program, launched in 2019, paved the way for increased commercial importation of kava. The pilot progressed in two phases: first, increasing the amount travellers could bring in, and later, permitting commercial imports from 1 December 2021. Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) Australia played an active role throughout, educating exporters and helping businesses navigate the requirements for entry into Australia. Today, these arrangements remain in place, providing a valuable pathway for Pacific exporters.

To export kava to Australia, businesses must comply with import regulations. All imports must meet food safety standards, with proper packaging and labelling. Additionally, importers will need an import permit from the Office of Drug Control (Department of Health and Aged Care), depending on quantity and intended use.

The data below provides a snapshot of Pacific kava exports to Australia, by country of origin, quantity, and number of suppliers.

Source: DFAT 2026

Country	2026 KAVA IMPORTS (KG)					CUMULATIVE FIGURES SINCE COMMENCEMENT (DEC 2021)	
	Q1 (kg)	Q2 (kg)	Q3 (kg)	Q4 (kg)	YTD (kg)	Cumulative (kg)	Suppliers
Fiji	22,577.1	34,248.95 ▲ 51.7%	-	-	56,826.1	331,197.15	220
Tonga	3,388.0	4,956.0 ▲ 46.3%	-	-	8,344.0	208,902.3	73
Vanuatu	15,921.3	11,279.98 ▼ 29.2%	-	-	27,201.3	158,699.78	30
New Zealand	0.0	100.0 ■ NEW	-	-	100.0	21,975.55	41
Papua New Guinea	1,020.0	320.0 ▼ 68.6%	-	-	1,340.0	7,484.1	5
Samoa	0.0	0.0 ■ NA	-	-	0.0	282.0	3
Solomon Islands	0.0	110.0 ■ NEW	-	-	110.0	436.24	4
Total	42,906.3	51,015.02 ▲ 18.9%	-	-	93,921.3	728,977.12	376

▲ ▼ ■ % change from last quarter (Q1 2026)

INSIGHTS

Australia imported over 51 tonnes of Pacific kava in Q2 2026, up 18.9% on Q1 and 22.7% on the same quarter in 2025, reflecting continued growth in consumer demand. Fiji recorded its strongest quarter on record, while Tonga also delivered significant year-on-year growth. Although Vanuatu's export volumes eased from its Q1 peak, it remains one of Australia's leading suppliers. Combined with growth in supplier numbers, the first half of 2026 points to a market that continues to mature and expand, supported by increasing supplier participation and growing consumer awareness.

Since the commencement of the Kava Pilot Program, PTI Australia has worked closely with Pacific exporters to support

market access opportunities through exporter education, regulatory guidance, market intelligence, commercial import facilitation and buyer engagement activities.

Building on previous support provided to Pacific kava exporters, including Ocean Kava's successful participation at Fine Food Australia 2025, PTI Australia will return to the event in 2026 with three Pacific kava businesses: Ocean Kava from PNG, and Fiji Kava and Heritage Kava from Fiji. The exhibition provides direct access to buyers, distributors and retailers, supporting Pacific exporters to strengthen their presence in the Australian market and develop new commercial partnerships.

PTI Australia's quarterly kava reports have become a valuable source of trade intelligence for exporters, importers and industry stakeholders monitoring the market's development.



CONTACT

For more information on exporting kava to Australia, please reach out to the PTI Australia team here:

<https://pacifictradeinvest.com/contact-us/>



COMING TO FINE FOOD AUSTRALIA IN 2026



FijiKava

Heritage KAVA | 2021-2022