

SENATE LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL LEGISLATION COMMITTEE  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS SERVICE

**Question No. 119**

**Senator Ludwig asked the following question at the hearing on 17 February 2006:**

What quantities of kava were imported in:

- a) powdered form;
- b) tablets and capsules in 2004 and 2005?
  
- c) What are the source countries by percentage of quantity imported?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

Kava is imported under permits issued by the Therapeutic Goods Authority (TGA).

Customs does not record whether an importation of Kava was in powder or other form, so this assessment is based on the free-text goods description. In 2004 and 2005, the total weight of goods with the word 'Kava' in the goods description (which may include powder, tablets, capsules or drinks) was 123,477 kilograms (60,250 kilograms in 2004 and 63,227 kilograms in 2005).

- a) As a subset of the total, the weight of goods explicitly described as 'Kava Powder' was 30,768 kilograms (18,689 kilograms in 2004 and 12,079 kilograms in 2005). As Customs does not record the form of kava imported, this may not be the total amount of kava in powdered form;
  
- b) See above
  
- c) Source countries by percentage of quantity imported for the two years combined:

<b>Country of Origin</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Fiji	67,035	54.29
Tonga	31,904	25.84
Vanuatu	23,115	18.72
China	719	0.58
New Zealand	497	0.4
Papua New Guinea	100	0.08
Croatia	94	0.08
Western Samoa	11	0.009
United States	2	0.001
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,477</b>	<b>100</b>