

1

46 Bundarra Road
Bellevue Hill
NSW 2023

26 October 2005

Ms Bronwyn Davis
Adjudication Branch
ACCC
PO Box 1199
ACT 2602

Dear Ms Davis

Notification of the Kashrut Authority Inc ("KA") N91747

I note that the KA has responded to all third party submissions, including my own submission. I feel it is important to respond to the KA response as it contains certain allegations in relation to my submission which are completely untrue.

I do not retract anything made in my original submission, and continue to press all the points I made.

Part 3.12.4 of KA Response

In my original submission I included a copy of a recent petition which I organised. In part 3.12.4 of the KA's response it states that "*the motivation for the petition was the misinformation spread in the context of the campaign orchestrated at South Head Synagogue*". This is completely untrue and is merely self serving speculation made by the KA to bolster its case.

I am an elected local Councillor and I understand the importance of listening to the community. I am also a kosher consumer and every week I supplement my Sabbath meals with prepared food from Katzys. I, like other mothers, lead a busy life and I have often said to my family that I would find it difficult to keep kosher without Katzys, as there is a limited supply of prepared kosher foods. When I was made aware of the problems that Katzys was experiencing and the possibility that it may close down, I felt so strongly about the issue that I would do whatever I could to ensure it remained viable. I believed that a petition would be the most effective and responsible way to achieve this. The petition asked the KA to work with the community to find a solution. The response from the community to the petition was overwhelming, and I collected well over a thousand names.

The petition was entirely my own initiative and I take offence to the suggestion that my motives could be otherwise. The KA, in its response, is merely making incorrect assumptions to suit its own purpose. As I have already stated in my original submission,

by making this notification the KA is in fact ignoring the request of those thousand signatures – which is a solution to make kosher eateries viable. If this notification were allowed it would be against the public interest and the very solution that those signatories were requesting.

Part 3.12.2 of KA Response

In the KA's response part 3.12.2, it claims that Katzys business is now thriving despite no change to the KA's meat policy. I have spoken to Mr Martin Katz, proprietor of Katzys, and he has stated that the only reason there has been some improvement in his business is because he has recently been able to supply his products to Coles and Franklins.

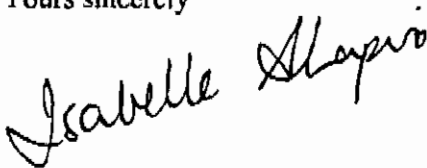
However, more relevant to this submission is that presently Katzys, like other restaurants, has permission to purchase Melbourne meat and therefore can negotiate better prices with the local kosher butcher. If this exemption was allowed and Katzys no longer had that permission to buy Melbourne meat, then it would be unable to negotiate on prices and quality with the local butcher and this could lead to an overall rise in its prices.

Part 3.12.1 of KA Response

In response to part 3.12.1, the KA meat policy, I press all the issues in my first submission as the proposed exemption would lead to higher prices for the consumer.

I believe that the issue in front of the ACCC with this submission is whether or not the public detriment exceeds the public benefit as a result of the KA lodging this notification. In the both the KA's submission and its response, it has not demonstrated any public benefit. As I have already submitted, there would be no public benefit and only public detriment to myself and to other consumers from this proposed exemption. The result would be higher prices and less choice (for all those reasons I have previously stated in my earlier submission).

Yours sincerely



Isabelle Shapiro