

Halal snack helps bring Australians together

8th April, 2017



A new kind of fast food is having a big impact in Australia. It has helped to bring Australian people together, and it has been named as the People's Choice Word of the Year 2016 by Australia's Macquarie Dictionary. It is the "halal snack pack", also known as an "HSP" in Australia. It is a combination of kebab meat, potato fries and a special spicy sauce. Although the snack was created in Australia, it has its roots in the Middle East. It has become a symbol of multiculturalism in Australia as more people become aware of halal food. There is even an HSP group on Facebook that has over 180,000 members. The site is for, "sharing great snack pack stories and discussing possibly the best snack pack in the world".

The halal snack pack has created a lot of discussion in Australia, especially after far-right politician Pauline Hanson refused to eat one. She said halal meat was unacceptable in Australia and that "98% of Australians" were against it. However, she could not provide any evidence to support her statement. Ms Hanson's words and actions have made the HSP more popular. Keysar Trad, president of the Australian Federation of Islamic Councils, said HSP winning word of the year was fantastic. He said: "If you're able to find it in the dictionary, it takes away the mystery. It brings people comfort and satisfaction that there's nothing sinister about the word "halal". It's all about what's positive, what is good and wholesome."

Sources: bbc.com / smh.com / ibtimes.com.au

Writing

Food is the best way to get to know and understand people from other cultures. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

fast food / a big impact / snack / kebab / halal / multiculturalism / roots / sharing / discussion / far-right politician / evidence / popular / fantastic / dictionary / positive

True / False

- A halal snack was Australia's Word of the Year for 2016. T / F
- The snack was created in the Middle East in 2015. T / F
- The halal snack is now a symbol of multiculturalism. T / F
- The halal snack Facebook page has more than 1800,000 members. T / F
- A politician from the far right refused to eat the halal snack. T / F
- The politician's words and actions made the halal snack less popular. T / F
- Australia's Islamic Council wasn't happy about the Word of the Year. T / F
- The Islamic Council suggested everything is good and positive. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. kind | a. particularly |
| 2. combination | b. frightening |
| 3. roots | c. sign |
| 4. symbol | d. mix |
| 5. aware of | e. proof |
| 6. especially | f. said no to |
| 7. refused | g. type |
| 8. evidence | h. healthy |
| 9. sinister | i. familiar with |
| 10. wholesome | j. origins |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about halal food?
- What do you think of fast food?
- What kind of fast food is your country good at?
- What do you think of the sound of the halal snack pack?
- What do you think about Middle Eastern food?
- What do you think of Australian food?
- How good is food at making multiculturalism work?
- What is the best snack in the world, and why?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. A new kind of fast food is having a big | a. over 180,000 members |
| 2. a special spicy | b. in the Middle East |
| 3. it has its roots | c. away the mystery |
| 4. It has become a symbol | d. sauce |
| 5. an HSP group on Facebook that has | e. were against it |
| 6. far- | f. impact in Australia |
| 7. 98% of Australians" | g. support her statement |
| 8. she could not provide any evidence to | h. wholesome |
| 9. it takes | i. right politician |
| 10. good and | j. of multiculturalism |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What food have you discussed a lot?
- Is your country's food the best in the world? Why?
- What does a far-right politician believe?
- Do you think it is good there is mystery about other cultures?
- What advice do you have for the far-right politician?
- What can we learn from other cultures?
- What questions would you like to ask an HSP Facebook member?

Spelling

- having a big miptac in Australia
- It is a iionanmocbt of...
- a special spicy ueacs
- a lmsbyo of multiculturalism
- more people become waaer of halal food
- iharnsg great snack pack stories
- far-right tpiicioanl
- she could not provide any ieevcnd
- winning word of the year was ntsacftia
- it takes away the smyyret
- It brings people comfort and osicisattnaf
- It's all about what's psviiioet

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. c	5. i
6. a	7. f	8. e	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Kebab

You think a kebab is the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fast food. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a pizza, a sandwich or a burger.

Role B – Pizza

You think a pizza is the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fast food. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a kebab, a sandwich or a burger.

Role C – Sandwich

You think a sandwich is the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fast food. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a pizza, a kebab or a burger.

Role D – Burger

You think a burger is the best fast food. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their fast food. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a pizza, a sandwich or a kebab.

Speaking – Fast Food

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------|---------------------------|
| • kebab | • burger |
| • fries | • fried chicken |
| • pizza | • hot dog |
| • sandwich | • from your country _____ |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.