Stand Up ABC (And Be Counted)
An innovative education experience for Bar and Bat mitzvah aged kids.

PROGRAM AIMS

• Stand Up ABC empowers young Jewish Australians to become changemakers in the community by upholding Jewish values of Tikkun Olam, Tzedakah and Chessed.
• Stand Up ABC engages participants to explore and address 21st century challenges: social cohesion, poverty alleviation, equitable distribution of wealth and human rights.
• Stand Up ABC provides participants with tangible opportunities to make a difference.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Program 1: Standing Up
What would I stand up for?
After getting to know their fellow participants, Stand Up-ers will explore the idea of Modern Plagues: injustices that afflict the modern world like homelessness, extreme poverty, racism and climate change. Stand Up-ers will be introduced to some of the inspiring people throughout history who realised their personal obligation to make a difference in the world. Inspired by Jewish concepts of Tzedek (justice) and Chessed (kindness), Stand Up-ers will learn what it means to be of Bar and Bat Mitzvah age.

Program 2: My universe of obligation
Who am I responsible to, and whose rights should I stand up for?
Stand Up-ers will be faced with the task of building their very own utopian communities, using special currency to purchase the features they would like to see in their communities. Stand Up-ers will then explore their universe of obligation – who do I choose to help?

Program 3: My Culture & Identity
How does my culture shape my identity?
Stand Up-ers will learn about the features of Australia’s varied cultures, and the value of cultural diversity in our society. Stand Up-ers will then explore Jewish culture and how it shapes and informs our values and our identity. Finally Stand Up-ers will prepare to meet refugees from Sudan, by understanding some of the basic reasons why the Sudanese community has come to Australia and the challenges they have faced since they’ve arrived.

Program 4: Engaging other cultures – Excursion
Are we really that different?
In this cross cultural exchange Stand Up-ers will get to know leaders and kids from the Darfuri Sudanese community through a fun and interactive activity.

Program 5: Teach a person to fish
What does it mean to live on less than $2 a day?
Stand Up-ers will consider the challenges of extreme poverty. After learning about the unequal distribution of wealth around the world, Stand Up-ers will be given the chance to discuss possible solutions to one of the world’s greatest problems. Using the concept of Tzedakah, Stand Up-ers will learn that the Jewish approach to helping others is as relevant as ever.

Program 6: Indigenous Australia
What is Jewish about Reconciliation?
Stand Up-ers will learn about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, their history, and their current-day disadvantage. Stand Up-ers will understand why we as a Jewish community are responsible to play an active role in reconciliation and leave with ideas and tools to keep Standing Up for indigenous rights, recognition and repair.

Program 7: Think big, start small
At the age of 12, am I really expected to take responsibility for others?
In this session Stand Up-ers will learn about the amazing impact of ethical consumption on communities, and the transformative power Stand Up-ers hold with each dollar they spend. Keeping in mind what we’ve learnt throughout the program Stand Up-ers will start working on developing their Action Projects.

Program 8: Grand Finale
Parents and families are invited to this final session where Stand Up-ers will share their reflections from the Stand Up program as they graduate. Each family will then be involved in a workshop to help their child refine an achievable Stand Up ABC project to complete in the next month.