



Australian Principal Supporter



**FLYING  
FOX**



### Did you hear the BUZZ?

#### Announcing the BUZZ – Taglit-Birthright Israel trip for young adults with special needs (cognitive)

**Taglit-Birthright Israel seeks to increase the number of young Jews experiencing Israel, by providing the gift of an educational trip to Israel. Over 500,000 young Jewish adults from around the world have enjoyed the magic of these 10 day experiences since the program's inception in 2000.**

Taglit Birthright Israel trips are free – including flights, accommodation and board and all touring.

The Zionist Federation of Australia together with our Australian Principal Supporter, Gandel Philanthropy and our organisational partners, Access Inc, Flying Fox and Friendship Circle are excited to announce the first Australian Taglit-Birthright Israel trip for young adults with special needs (cognitive).

Our group will be called “BUZZ” – in Hebrew, “פֶּזֶז” means “falcon” – connoting flight, strength and freedom.

The group, which will comprise 15 participants, 15 buddies and staff, will spend 10 wonderful days in Israel from late November 2017.

Like every Taglit-Birthright Israel program, the group will tour key sites in Israel, enjoy immersive experiences and participate, first hand, in Israel's vibrant culture.

The program will be tailored for the group in terms of pace and intensity, incorporating as many of the Birthright core elements as possible.

### **PARTICIPANTS**

Participants must comply with the Birthright eligibility criteria, ie:

- 18 – 26 years old
- Jewish (one parent must be Jewish)
- Can't have been on an organised educational program in Israel after turning 18.
- If Israeli, must have left Israel before turning 12 years old.

Participants will be expected to:

1. Be able to travel on long haul flights from Melbourne or Sydney to Israel, with a stopover of possibly several hours in Bangkok or Hong Kong.
2. Be part of a cohesive group.
1. Be able to get up early and participate in consecutive and full days of programming, including evening programs.
2. Be able to walk a total of up to 2 -3 hours a day.
3. Be able to sit on a bus for several hours.
4. Be able to manage moving between locations, with up to three different accommodation venues over the ten days of the trip.
5. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate participants who use a wheelchair.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

We invite interested young adults who meet the Birthright eligibility criteria to come to an information session on Wednesday 26 April (Sydney) or Thursday 4 May (Melbourne) to hear more about the program and how to apply. See the attached flyer for further details. Members of the Buzz team will be at each session, ready to answer general questions or speak with you personally about the trip and how it might suit you.

Following the information session, we will invite expressions of interest to participate. We will be seeking information from each applicant including reports from your medical practitioner. Applicants will be interviewed to assess their suitability to participate. Final group composition will take into account gender balance, balance between states and group dynamics. Priority will be afforded to suitable applicants who are 25 or 26 years old who will not be eligible for future trips.

## **BUDDIES**

15 buddies will be selected to accompany the participants. The buddy is a volunteer who will be paired up with a participant for the duration of the program, including flights to and from Israel. The buddy will support their participant and assist them in gaining the most from the program.

Buddies do not need to meet Birthright eligibility criteria, but must be between the ages of 20 – 30.

We also invite young adults interested in applying to be a buddy to the information sessions, to hear more about the program and the role of the buddies.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**INFORMATION SESSION:**

**Sydney – Wednesday 26 April, 7:30pm**

Jewish Care Community Lounge, 3 Saber St, Woollahra

**Melbourne – Thursday 4 May, 7:30pm**

Beth Weizmann Community Centre, 306 Hawthorn Road, South Caulfield

Please come to the information session in your state to hear all about the program. For any additional information, contact the Zionist Federation of Australia on 03 9272 5564/ [zfa@zfa.com.au](mailto:zfa@zfa.com.au)