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Isabella Clarke to sing *Speak Up* at the Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2017

The ABC is excited to announce that Isabella Clarke will sing <u>Speak Up</u>, a modern pop anthem about young people having a voice in the world, at the *Junior Eurovision Song Contest 2017 (JESC)* held on Sunday 26 November at the Tbilisi Sports Palace, Georgia.

Isabella, the 13-year-old singing sensation chosen to represent Australia at the *JESC 2017*, hails from Melbourne, Victoria. She made her debut on the Melbourne singing scene four years ago and has been a shining star ever since. As well as receiving many accolades performing at various singing competitions, Isabella also held a coveted principal vocalist role in the 2017 Victorian State Schools Spectacular.

The upbeat and inspiring song is about believing in the power of youth and encourages younger generations to be confident and speak up about issues they're facing. The song was composed and written by Toby Chew Lee, Cameron Nacson, Chloe Papandrea, and Jess Porfiri,

"I absolutely love *Speak Up*! To me it's about being able to speak your mind and not be afraid. It's about kids having the confidence to talk about the things happening in their lives. This is something I really believe in," said Isabella Clarke. "Recording the song and music video has been a dream come true and I'm glad I was able to share this experience with my family and friends. I'm now looking forward to performing the song in Tbilisi."

The *Speak Up* music video is a celebration of the creativity and power of young people and was inspired by High School Lip Dub videos. Filmed at Isabella's high school, the video is a bold, colourful one take clip that follows Isabella through her school, as her friends join in her for dance and flash mob surprises.

Head of ABC Children's Television, Michael Carrington, said: "Speak Up is an incredible song which carries an important message to children to encourage them to express their feelings. The energetic track allows Isabella's exceptional vocal ability to shine through, and with its catchy chorus, will be an instant hit with not only ABC ME audiences, but youth around the world."

Paul Clarke at Blink TV and Head of Delegation for Australia said, "We're really delighted with our song, which is so catchy and fun, but also has a great positive message. We're inspired by Isabella's brilliant vocal - talk about nailing it! I'm sure she will fly our flag high. Speak Up maintains the high standard Australia has delivered at Eurovision, and as always we are committed to giving it our best shot. We can't wait to get the chance to perform it on the Junior Eurovision stage."

The *Junior Eurovision Song Contest* 2017 will be broadcast on ABC ME, the ABC ME App and ABC iview on Monday 27 November at the family friendly time of 7.30pm AEDT.

ABC ME is calling on all Australians to get behind *JESC 2017* and celebrate not only Isabella, but all the young performers competing, as Australian fans will be able to vote for their favourite performer online for the first time. Information on how to vote will be available shortly on the <u>ABC ME website</u>. Join the conversation: #JESC

Isabella is represented by Universal Music Australia, and Speak Up is released worldwide today.

For further information contact:

Amy Reiha, TV Publicist, ABC Audiences 02 8333 3852 | 0404 026 039 | reiha.amy@abc.net.au