

# Creating Change

**Great! You're motivated, inspired and want to get involved. But how do you go about it, and where do you start?**

TakingITGlobal suggest that you need to "Think Globally, Act Locally! Global change begins with positive action within communities." It's true. To create change anywhere, you need to start locally, and at a small level. Even then, many people our age don't know how to take action, it all seems too hard, so we stop trying, content to complain about the world and how we don't have a say. But things can be different, if we choose to make them so.

So *ipisi* have brought together some information and advice on where to start, and how to go about getting your project off the ground, working through a three-step process of *Identify*, *Learn* and *Involve*.

## Identify

Before you even start a project or your own initiative, you have to *identify* your talents, skills, and what it is you want to change. To do this, all you need to do is get a piece of paper and write down answers to these questions;

- What do you care passionately about?
- What do you want to change in your community?
- What skills do you have to help create this change?

As an example; you're a good skateboarder who is concerned about theft and property damage at your local skate park. Combining your skills and interests, you may decide that lockers should be installed at local skate parks.

## Learn

Once you have your idea, it's simple to go out there and get into motion. But before you do, you need to learn a bit more about your future project. Try and find out as much as possible, it can't hurt to know a lot about a certain subject. The more you know the more chance you have got to be successful in the project you have started. Some questions you might like to find answers for include;

- Has anyone else done a project like the one you are planning?
- What were their experiences?
- What are the causes of the issue you are trying to solve?
- What can your project do to address these causes?
- What will your project do to address the effects of the issue?

In terms of the skate park example you may find that;

- skate parks all over the country have this problem
- they installed cameras in Adelaide and it didn't work
- theft was an effect of poor security at venues, making them soft targets for drug-related crime.
- lockers would increase security and decrease the ease of theft

These questions may seem daunting and extensive, but there are lots of resources out there to help you; many of which we've outlined in this edition, with more on the *ipisi* website. If ever you're feeling lost, email us ([ipisi@212.com](mailto:ipisi@212.com)), and we'll see how we can help.

## Involve

Here's where you get to really put your project into motion. To get it up and running, you need to inform people about your project, get them involved, and, in most cases, get funding.

Spreading the word can sometimes feel like a bit of a sales pitch, because, in truth it is. You're trying to sell people your idea, so start locally, with people who will directly see benefit from it, moving onto people with a common interest. If it's a community project, try and get your local councils, schools, youth groups and local community involved. If it is a larger, nation-wide project you want to start, try and get support from national organisations or government agencies.

People/groups you may approach for the skate park;

- local council youth services department
- other skate parks
- other skaters
- skate-related media (magazines, websites, etc.)



For more project resources, see page 6, for a comprehensive set of links and project assistance, go to <http://ipisimag.grokspot.com>