

MAKING IT HAPPEN

Are you passionate about something and want to create change?
Here are some tips that will help you get started and identify what
you want to achieve.

Work out your issue



I feel really passionately about the environment and wanted to do something to help improve it.

Here are a few questions to ask to help you identify your issue and what you want to do:

- What's important to you? What issues motivate you to act?
- What would you like to change?
- What things are stopping you from doing something about these issues? How will you overcome or deal with these?

Identify your vision and ask yourself what you want to achieve, why it's important and who it affects.

GET INFORMED

Once you've decided on an issue you want to take action on, it's important that you get clued up on your issue and know what you are talking about.

RESEARCH

It is important to learn about your issue, as it will help build credibility and show people you know what you are talking about.

By doing your own research, you can make a bigger impact on the changes you want to make. Consider these questions:

- What do you already know about this issue? What's your view on this issue?
- What do you need to know about it? What are the gaps in your knowledge?
- Who is affected by this issue and why?
- What are people's views who support this issue?
- What are people's views who don't support this issue?
- What activities/actions have worked in the past around this issue?
- Are any events/activities happening at the moment around this issue?

You can research information about your issue by using the following methods:

- Search the internet – blogs, media and social networking websites will have up-to-date information.
- Visit the library – check out your local library. Some have newspapers from across New Zealand, which will give you an idea of what people's views are from different areas.
- Talk to people – gather the views of people in your area and community (young people, organisations, teachers or neighbours).
- Ask the experts – talk to someone who knows a bit about your issue to get a head start and some guidance.
- Go to a meeting – find out if there are community groups or organisations that are related to your cause.
- Contact government departments about reports and statistics – either online or in hard copy. These reports can give you important facts and figures.

Build support for your issue

Talking to people and building contacts is the best way to find out what other people think.

If you and your group are going to be successful, you need to know how to respond when others don't agree with you or try to stop your opinion being heard.

Throughout your project, you may work with a range of people. To build relationships, it is important to:

- know about your issue so people can see that you know what you're talking about (this is why research is important)
- have a key message that you can keep using
- keep focused on what you want to achieve.

In your community, ask people what they think of the issue:

- Do they think it's relevant, important and beneficial to the community?
- What do they think needs to be done?
- Who can they recommend to help you or give some advice?

RESOURCES

You will need resources to make your project happen. Resources can include:

- internet, phone and computer
- stationery
- someone with public speaking experience
- meeting room.

If you need money to fund your project, you could apply for funding through the following channels:

- **FUNDVIEW** – www.fis.org.nz provides information about funding criteria from a wide range of sources including funding from the government, local authorities and some service organisations.
- **COUNCIL** – contact your local council or check out their website to find out if they have specific funding for projects for young people.
- **LOCAL FUNDERS** – find out where other groups in your community get their funding from. Ask youth workers and people working with young people if they know of any local funders that might support your project.

NETWORKING

Networking is simply a way of talking to people you know (or people you want to know) about what you need. People in your network may be able to offer advice and information, provide opportunities or introduce you to other people so you can grow your network.

Examples of network groups include your local community, church and sports teams.

RECRUITING PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED

Do you need to get other people on board? Here are key points to think about when recruiting people:

- What **roles** might people have if they get involved? Remember that everyone needs something to do.
- What **skills** will they need to take on those roles?
- What **resources** can be used to support people's involvement?
- What **information** will people need before they get involved?

**HAVE A KEY
MESSAGE
THAT YOU
CAN KEEP
ON USING**

Work as a group on your issue

You can create change by yourself or by being part of a group. Having an effective team enables each member to use his/her skills and talents, share roles and responsibilities, communicate with each other and get the job done.

Working as a team is a valuable skill for getting a project done and involves these things:

SHARING RESPONSIBILITIES

A project idea might take heaps of time for one person to do but would be more successful (and fun) if you all worked on it together. Sharing the work means you know who is working on what, and you won't repeat something that someone else is doing.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS AND TRUST

Everyone has different strengths and things they feel comfortable doing. You might be into talking in front of big groups of people, while someone else might like writing. Find out what other people's strengths and interests are. Support each other on what they are working on.

NEGOTIATING DECISION-MAKING

Involving other people means listening to different opinions and ideas. As a group, you will need to respect everyone's opinions and work together to make decisions.

COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

Express yourself clearly and listen to what other people have to say.

Work out your action

Brainstorming is a great way to think outside the box and come up with creative ideas on:

- How can you achieve your project's goal?
- How do you want young people to learn about your issue?

The kind of actions you will take will depend on the issue you have chosen and who the decision makers are who deal with that issue.

If your issue is a community issue, your actions might include:

- getting the views of other young people on the issue
- putting a submission into your local or regional council
- speaking at a council meeting.

If your issue is a national issue, your actions might include:

- getting the views of other young people on the issue
- writing to politicians
- meeting with your local MP.

BE REALISTIC

Your brainstorming session might have led to heaps of ideas, but your project needs to be do-able. The following questions will help you make sure you can achieve what you want:

- Which idea will best achieve your project goal?
- Will you be working on this by yourself, or will you have others to share the workload?
- How much time can you spend on this project?
- Do you have the resources to do it, or can you find the resources needed, e.g. apply for funding or use someone else's equipment?
- Are there any issues or risks in your idea? Is there anyone that you need to ask permission from before you start on your plan? What can you do to lessen the issues or risks?

BE CREATIVE

Use your creative skills and don't be afraid to create something new. Be imaginative and think outside the square.

Think about what you want to achieve for yourself and your community. You could start by thinking of ways to create new opportunities or new resources.

BE CALM AND BELIEVE IN YOUR ISSUE

CREATE AN ACTION PLAN

A great way to start organising an activity is to have a clear purpose and idea about how it might be achieved.

MAKE A PLAN

Write down the steps you need to take to make your project happen. Making a plan is a great way to keep track of how your project is going.

EXAMPLE

MAKE IT HAPPEN



MINISTRY OF
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATU WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

To download a copy of this form online, please go to:

www.myd.govt.co.nz

1 **GOAL:** *To get better lighting for the park so that it is safer.*

2 **STRATEGIES:**

meet with the local youth council to raise the issue, write a letter to the mayor outlining our concerns.

TASK	RESPONSIBILITY	DEADLINE	RESOURCES
What are the steps that need to be done?	Who is going to do this action?	When does this action need to be done by?	What do you need to get this task done?
<i>Talk with youth council coordinator to set a meeting with youth council</i>	<i>Jess</i>	<i>Within a week</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Write letter to mayor</i>	<i>Everyone</i>	<i>Within two months</i>	<i>Help with writing letter</i>

1

GOAL

- Explain why you are taking the action and what outcome you hope to achieve. Goals should be clearly stated and realistic.

2

STRATEGIES

- Specify how the goal will be met.

3

RESOURCES

- What resources do you have?
- What resources do you need?
- How will you get the resources?

**MAKE IT
HAPPEN!**
**MAKE
A PLAN!**