

# Staying on Track:

## Supporting a healthy jump from study to purposeful work

Submission by Be Collective

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## Background



Finding purposeful, secure work is challenging for anyone not in the workforce—particularly for young people. Recent research undertaken by the Foundation for Young Australians found it takes nearly five years to land a stable job after finishing formal education. Further, with one in three young people looking for work and unemployment being a significant contributor to depression and anxiety, poverty and social isolation—solutions are needed.

Excitingly, youth is also a period marked by a willingness to experiment and try new things; a passion and energy to help make the world a better place; and a belief that change is possible. It's this recipe that often finds young people at their most entrepreneurial and driven to make a difference. Given these same young people are also at risk of being unable to find a vehicle to utilise their energy and desire to make a difference, support through this period is vital to optimise the opportunities and potential of every young person. Therefore it is important that there is deliberate focus to arm young people with the tools they need for the next significant stage of development, defining their role and capacity to contribute to community as citizens.

Determining what will help young people to stay on track and make a difference is critical.

Bringing together great minds with good information is key, along with a forum to deliberate and explore. Be Collective has put forward this submission to enable Staying on Track delegates to consider the benefits of volunteering and social activism to wellbeing, its contribution to pathways to employment and the value of enabling a sense of agency to make a difference. Be Collective recommends that volunteering and social activism be actively nurtured as a means to support young people to make a healthy jump from study to purposeful paid work. Further, Be Collective offers free tools to make volunteering and social activism easy, measure contribution and provide every young person a Social Resume verifying their contribution and skill acquisition. We trust this submission will support Staying on Track delegates to best propose solutions and support that will enable young people to make a healthy jump as they transition from study to work and contribute to build community wellbeing as active citizens.

## Be Collective

Be Collective is both social infrastructure and a global movement to mobilise our collective goodwill. It is built on the notion that every part of our community has something to offer. It provides a virtual meeting place for people and organisations to broadcast community needs, help out by volunteering, mobilise and manage volunteers, share skills and facilities and donate resources and money.

Be Collective enables every individual to seek volunteering opportunities that enable them to either build on their existing skills or gain new ones, develop a verified record of the significant social contribution that they make, and capture the real world experience they have acquired that is transferable to the workplace. This is all verified and documented through a Social Resume (please see sample Social Resume attached).

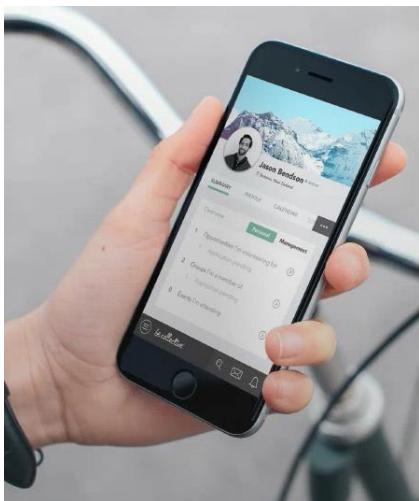
## Proposal

Securing meaningful, secure employment opportunities following the completion of study, can be extremely challenging. However, finding a volunteer role that connects with an individual's values, utilises their existing skills while also building new skills can be meaningful and effect profound change for the community as well as the individual.

The focus on enabling young people to contribute to community through volunteering and social activism is based on an understanding that:

1. Endorphins are created when we help others and contribute meaningfully to causes we care about.
2. Resilience is built when we increase our connection to people and organisations.
3. Volunteering can lead to skill acquisition that can enhance job prospects.

Be Collective also recognises the period of transition between formal study and work can provide a unique opportunity to have the time learn about and connect with organisations and determine ways that young people could author their own activity to contribute to community and potentially generate their own employment or social enterprise.



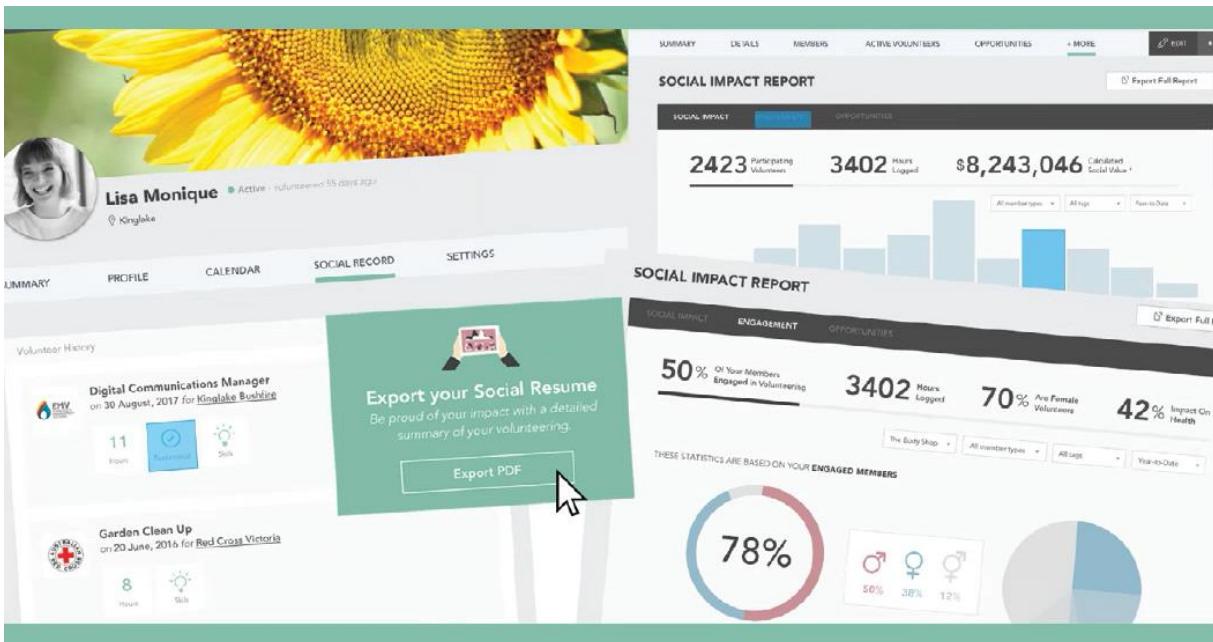
Supporting young people to “make a healthy jump” is also about creating a space for them to be able to identify what and who is likely to optimise making successful transitions from school and study to work. This will ideally include opportunities for young people to learn about and connect with organisations who can assist them with their transition and provide an opportunity to gain meaningful experience and contribute to the community. Marrying this with opportunities to explore social entrepreneurship and self-efficacy could enable young people to author their own activity to contribute to community and potentially generate their own employment or social enterprise.

Be Collective proposes that young people be encouraged and supported to volunteer. The Be Collective platform was built to make volunteering and social activism easy. Be Collective is much more than a volunteer noticeboard, it’s social infrastructure. Through a smart algorithm based on an individual’s skills, the causes they care about and their geography, Be Collective offers everyone the opportunity to set up their profile, learn about what the community needs, the skills that might be acquired through volunteering and provide suggestions for volunteering.

Be Collective also provides the first ever verified record of social contribution articulating each person’s social impact that can be downloaded and shared as a Social Record/ Resume. It also enables each person to manage their volunteering portfolio to different organisations, over different life stages and different locations. For “high quality professional” tour of Be Collective by the author, please see Video Part 1: <https://youtu.be/o6KVzRc1Lgk> and Video Part 2: <https://youtu.be/OwVczjDaA20>

Be Collective proposes that support be provided to young people in transition to learn about social entrepreneurship, activism and community organisations. Hosting a “Community Organisation Market Place” where young people could meet and talk to community organisations who both provide services and programs that support young people; and are seeking young people to volunteer to assist to address social issues and develop skill acquisition could support people to start their volunteering and social activism journey.

Seaside Scavenge, Beards On, Her Space and The Good Karma Effect are all examples of organisations that were started by young people determined to make a difference. Each young person identified a cause they cared about, looked at service gaps and built organisations and their own role to make a difference.



For Groups, Be Collective provides free social infrastructure to manage volunteering from start to finish. Groups, no matter their size or location can broadcast their need for volunteers (as well as funding) to their members, the community generally and strategically share volunteering projects with other groups including business, universities and government. Partner organisations can then share and specifically endorse that group’s volunteering opportunities with their members, employers, customers, students and residents amplifying the audience that is exposed to current volunteering opportunities for that organisation.

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Be Collective provides the social infrastructure to magnify the reach of each organisation's work to attract new volunteers and supporters while maintaining a rich engaging digital environment for their existing ones. It also has an Articles feature that enables groups to write about their work, link the article to a volunteering opportunity or donation to provide an additional vehicle to broadcast projects and needs. Be Collective leverages the power of technology to facilitate smart connections between individuals and groups, make management easy, measure and aggregate data and creates not only a universal market place but a universal language for articulating impact.

## Be Collective Proposal Summary

Volunteering and social activism can makes us feel great. When we make a difference in the community, we develop real world skills that are transferable to workplaces. This proposal recommends young people be supported to be active in the community through volunteering and social activism as it will provide:

- an improved sense of wellbeing, sense of purpose and achievement
- enhanced social connectedness and networks
- enhanced employment prospects
- a Social Resume to document all work experience
- testimonials from supervisors to endorse work undertaken
- working in an inspiring and supportive work environment

Be Collective is social infrastructure. It supports individuals to make a difference whether with existing organisations or to author their own impact, build skills and become more employable and supports groups to broadcast needs, measure impact and generate partnerships.

We invite all Staying on Tack delegates to join Be Collective, look for opportunities to volunteer, engage community organisations to be involved or set up a page for your own organisation or community group to mobilise action and inspire other people to volunteer- it's free- so there are no barriers to anyone- or any group- ever.

As Margaret Mead sagely said "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."