Transcription of Enterprising Australians video
Taj Pabari – Fiftysix Creations

The video for this transcript can be found on the Questacon YouTube channel at:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtJh5hY6zZM

Transcription from video:

[intro music]

Joe:
Hi folks, Joe here. Today I’m at Questacon’s Maker Space, but I recently travelled to Brisbane to chat with Taj Pabari, a local teenager who’s rethinking how we interact with smart devices. Let’s check it out.

[Taj sitting on a couch. Image shifts to a montage of Taj and his tablets in various situations.]

Taj:
At the time, when I started this company, I was thirteen-and-a-half years old.

The co-founder at the time had just turned eighteen so we weren’t too technologically literate.

We didn’t know how to design a computer, we’d never done that stuff before, so it was a steep learning curve.

It was just all about surrounding ourselves with people who had been there, done that along the hardware sort of chain, making sure that we were meeting people who had designed pieces of hardware from the ground up.

What we were doing wasn’t the most conventional piece of hardware. What we were doing was something that was going to go into the hands of children, so we had to make something that was super safe, something that was super fun, and quite aesthetically pleasing as well.

[Image shows Taj sitting on a couch. Image shifts to a montage of Taj and his tablets in various situations.]

So, they start off with building their very own tablet computer. It’s an Android tablet after it’s built. They clip in the battery, they clip in the camera, the flex cables et cetera. Then they jump onto the tablet, it’s an Android tablet, they program a game, learn through visual programming, that sort of thing.

[Image shows a close-up stop-motion of a tablet being constructed.]
Then we’ve got a whole curriculum on Computer Science, so we actually take them through – what does a screen do? What does a battery do? What does a camera do? And we go right into the inner depth in terms of what these individual components do as well.

Digital literacy skills over the past three years have increased by I think 212-percent in the workplace, so what we’re trying to do is bridge that gap and ensure all young people, no matter where they’re from, regardless of their age or knowledge base, they are properly digitally literate.

They understand how to build computers, they understand what computers do, rather than just using and consuming one.

The second thing is entrepreneurship.

We wanted to give young people that opportunity to engage in the world of entrepreneurship, engage their creative mindset, problem solve, critical thinking skills that we know are quite important for success in this day and age.

And I think the third thing is creativity.

Our name FiftySix in numerology means opportunity and we wanted to give young people the opportunity to build tech, create tech and immerse themselves with tech.

So we go into communities and communities overseas, to India, to Nepal, regions of Asia, and a region of Africa to donate our tablet computers and do a few workshops to get them actually learning 21st century teachings using 21st century technology as well.

So my general advice for young people still in high school or university is give it your all in those traditional sort of systems but if you feel you have the capacity or motivation and the mindset to actually start during high school or start during university, start then.
You’ve got the ability to wake up at whatever time you want to wake up, or go to sleep at whatever time you want to go to sleep.

There’s that quote: “If you have the passion, take the action, the magic will happen.”

So it’s just about making sure you take the opportunity to learn from your mistakes and experience everything, yeah, just live life to its fullest.

[Image shows Taj on the couch. Image shifts to Taj being interviewed on ‘60 Minutes’ and speaking on ‘TedX’.]