

My Dad



When you first think of success, you think of the 'Elon Musks' of the world or famous worldwide pop stars like Taylor Swift. Although these people deserve their fair recognition, success doesn't always revolve around fame or money but sometimes it's simply the person who started with no advantages and humbly built a meaningful life.

My Dad like every little girl has always been my superhero. He knows how to make me laugh, teaches me to be humble and most importantly teaches me to be kind to everyone I meet. I love how funny he thinks he is and all the important life lessons he has taught me, but what I really appreciate the most is how he taught me what real success is and the effort it requires.

My Dad first came to Australia as a backpacker from Ireland when he was only 21 years old. He came from a small Irish town and left everything he had ever known behind, his home, his family and his friends. After hearing his Irish friend's stories about all the opportunities in Australia, he decided to fly halfway across the world by himself with only a small amount of money. During his first week in this new environment, he got a job doing hard labouring work which was just enough to cover rent and food. Although he originally had plans of travelling, he was driven towards work by the opportunities he saw before him.

My Dad



He did any jobs he could find transitioning from a labourer to a pipe layer, then to driving excavators. He was determined to build his reputation and form valuable connections.

After two years in Australia, my dad then decided to take a huge risk by opening his own plumbing company, all while doing night courses at TAFE to gain his Australian plumbing licence, as his Irish qualifications weren't recognised here. Despite this, he persevered, propelling the business forward by working countless days and nights for the next 10 years. He even carried a pillow around in his van with him to sleep in-between shifts. He and my mother then bought their first piece of land after getting married. Shortly after this I was born, and they began the process of designing their house. He marked, 'designing and building their dream home together from scratch' as his proudest achievement, after having me of course.

Now, my dad is still pushing his successful plumbing business forward while also finding time in his busy schedule to take me and my siblings to activities and sport, sit with us at family dinner and just be there every single day.

So yes, he's still my superhero. But writing this has made me realise he is so much more than that.

My Dad



He is living proof that success isn't just about fame or fortune, because sometimes the most successful person in the room isn't the richest or most educated, but the one who worked quietly, humbly, patiently, with nothing and built everything up.