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My father was that person who always pushed me to aim the highest, be the best I can be, keep good morale and overall be a compassionate person, I really owe most of my strengths to him. He was a tough man but that has made me an even stronger woman, so thanks Dad ha ha.

There were a few particular times in my life where I felt quite defeated, I was judged often, looked down upon and singled out, I was once told that I could not handle a 9-5, 5 day week job and that it would be too much for me! I can see why they thought that at the time as I was only 19 and a single mother, but they didn't know me or my story, and it hurt that they did not 'give' me a chance.

After this experience I was not letting others dictate what I can and can't do from this day forward, no matter what! For the sake of International Woman's Day, let's say I found my inner 'Woman Power' ha ha.

Anyway, I got a full-time day job 6 months later, I succeeded in completing my Cert 11 traineeship in 8 months instead of 12, go me, and I really wanted to stick it to that other employer let me tell you! Roxanne was my new boss's name, and I had learnt a lot about being a leader from her, and the impact of 'giving' opportunities without judgement, 'giving' time for personal growth and 'giving' time to share knowledge can have on someone, especially since I was quite young, so thanks Roxanne!

As a new leader I do truly believe we can only contribute to another's ability to reach their full potential by giving, I am still learning in leadership, but I couldn't agree more with the 'Give to Gain' campaign.

It means exactly that, without 'giving', time to hear and really listen, 'giving' knowledge, 'giving' opportunities and 'giving' feedback, no one can truly 'gain' anything.

I received my very first onboarding review last year and I was truly amazed that the impact I had on this new staff member, and not to toot my own horn haha but I know that I earned that as it was due to 'giving' time, compassion, understanding, knowledge and patience in the early stages of their employment, all the pivotal things I have learnt from the amazing leaders I have had in the past and present.

Give to Gain is not just about what others gain from us 'giving' as leaders, it is what WE also 'gain' by 'giving' to others.

So get out there and GIVE a little to someone today.