THE LEGACY GAP

What Dads Are Getting Wrong About Helping Their Kids Financially

Most dads have a clear intention: give their children a better start. The question is whether the financial decisions being made today are designed to deliver it.

What do you want to make possible?

Imagine your children looking back in 20 years. Beyond money, what would you want them to say you made possible?

_____

_____

_____

Your five-gap reality check

Circle one score for each statement: 1 = not at all clear / prepared; 5 = very clear / prepared.

INTENTION I have a specific financial plan for the opportunities I want to give my children.

1 2 3 4 5

TIME I have started investing early enough for the goals that matter.

1 2 3 4 5

STRUCTURE I understand how ownership and tax affect what my family ultimately receives.

1 2 3 4 5

FREEDOM I know the annual income and capital I need for financial independence.

1 2 3 4 5

ACTION I have reviewed and acted on these priorities recently.

1 2 3 4 5

A question to sit with

If your children copied the way you make financial decisions today, would you be proud of the habits they inherited?

The gap I most want to close:

_____

GENERAL INFORMATION ONLY | Personal circumstances, tax treatment and suitability vary. This material is not personal financial advice.

TIME IS YOUR GREATEST ASSET

The cost of waiting to give your children a head start

The compounding difference

Illustration: $500 invested each month, earning an assumed 7% a year compounded monthly, before fees and tax.

When you start	Years invested	Approx. at age 18
At birth	18	$215,000
At age 10	8	$64,000

Illustrative only, not a prediction. Actual returns, taxation and fees will differ.

What is the money actually for?

Write the opportunities you would like to fund and when they may arise.

Education / training

Target age or year: _____ Approximate amount: _____

First home / housing

Target age or year: _____ Approximate amount: _____

Other opportunities

Target age or year: _____ Approximate amount: _____

A question worth discussing at home

If you could only fund one of these goals without affecting your retirement, which would matter most — and why?

Another question worth asking

Are you building a head start for your children — or an expectation that you will always be their financial safety net?

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THE STRUCTURE GAP

It is not only what you own — it is how you own it

Consider a family investing for two children while also accumulating super and property. Which decisions could affect the net wealth that reaches the next generation?

Four traps to recognise

1 CHILDREN AND INVESTMENT INCOME

Some investment income of minors is subject to special tax rates. The legal and beneficial ownership arrangement matters.

2 TRANSFERRING ASSETS LATER

Giving shares or property to a child can trigger CGT even where no money changes hands. Other costs may also apply.

3 SUPER IS NOT AN ORDINARY INHERITANCE

Super death benefits have separate beneficiary and tax rules. An independent adult child may face tax on the taxable component.

4 PURPOSE-BUILT STRUCTURES

Education bonds may offer education-focused benefits, but eligible expenses, beneficiary tax outcomes, access, fees and investment risks must be understood.

Reflection: what needs a closer look?

Circle any that may be relevant: Investments in a child's name / Property ownership / Super beneficiaries / Estate plan / Education funding

Look beyond the balance

If something happened to you tomorrow, would your family know what you own, who controls it and what they would actually receive?

The question I need answered:

_____

_____

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YOUR FAMILY LEGACY BLUEPRINT

Protect your own freedom while creating opportunity for others

First, know your freedom number

Desired annual spending in today's dollars: $_____

Years until retirement: _____

Inflation assumption: _____%

The uncomfortable trade-off

If helping your children meant working five years longer, would you still make the same financial promises?

Example: $100,000 of annual spending today would require about $181,000 in 20 years at 3% annual inflation. This is a spending estimate, not a retirement capital target.

The three commitments

For SELF: one step towards financial independence

_____

_____

For FAMILY: one opportunity I want to plan for

_____

_____

For SERVICE: one way I want my wealth to have an impact

_____

_____

The bigger legacy

What values, habits or opportunities do you want your children to inherit that money alone cannot provide?

My next 30 days

One decision or conversation I will prioritise:

_____

_____

When: _____ With whom: _____

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