

Indian small-town girl awarded Women Entrepreneur of the year, Australia 2021

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Dr. Saba Qutub of Armstrong Health and DRSQ Skincare has been awarded the Corporate Livewire Innovation & Excellence “Women Entrepreneur of the Year, Australia” award for the year 2021.

The Innovation and Excellence Awards presented by The Corporate Livewire celebrate and recognize businesses and entrepreneurs from all walks of life internationally. It recognises small and medium-sized businesses that have proven to be the best in their market over the past 12 months. All shortlisted entrants put forward in the awards are asked to support their nomination with evidence of their work, positive feedback from their clients, information on previous accreditation and recognition as well as highlighting the most outstanding parts of their businesses.

The judging panel base their decisions upon areas such as service excellence, quality of the product/ service provided, innovative practices, value, ethical or sustainable methods of working, as well as consistency in performance.

The winners selected are those who can best demonstrate their strengths in these areas.

Dr. Saba Qutub is a mother of two beautiful girls while balancing her successful career as a Medical Practitioner, Cosmetic Physician & an entrepreneur. Dr. Saba Qutub was born in the small town of UP, Kathgodam. She travelled to few cities because of her father’s transferable job before finally settling in Aligarh, UP. She completed her MBBS from Aligarh in 2005 and then moved to Australia in 2007.

She was always passionate about medicine, but she continued to feel this pull for cosmetic medicine combined with an entrepreneurial dream. With rest of the family in India, she struggled to build her

business while figuring out the ropes of a toddler and a newborn and had times like breastfeeding her newborn in between clients. In 2017 Saba opened Armstrong Health, which is a Smart Health Clinic working towards the emotional and physical health & well-being of individuals and families in Geelong. It is a unique health hub incorporating General Practice, Integrative Medicine, Medical Aesthetics, Nutritional Medicine, and Medical Acupuncture. She later launched DRSQ Skincare in 2018. DRSQ Skincare's point of difference is that it amalgamates the best of advance cosmeceutical science and natural ingredients to create highly effective, evidence-based, and ethical skincare.

Dr. Saba Qutub is delighted to win the title and is proud of her achievements. To be recognized for my achievements is incredibly humbling because I simply started just to gain control over my career and to spend more time with my family, so to get to this point is surreal!

There are many benefits to balancing business and motherhood as Dr. Saba Qutub explains, "I love being both a mom and an entrepreneur, and I couldn't see my life without either one of them. My children and business make me who I am, and I wholeheartedly believe that it's important for mums to know that it is okay to want both! When Covid happened, that was a difficult time for all. I was fortunate enough that my business was doing well, but that meant I worked full-time while my kids were home from school, relying on me for their education. I wasn't willing to give up either of these responsibilities, so between patients, I would hop on Zoom with my daughters and help them with their school work. I have learned the art of adjusting, and I didn't throw my hands up, instead, I asked the question, "How can I solve this problem?" This was a game-changer.

It can be challenging to be a successful businesswoman whilst raising a family and Dr Saba Qutub gives this advice for others thinking about starting their own enterprise. "I believe that passion is a person's driving force to be successful. If you are passionate about it, then you should chase it. That passionate drive should be deep at the bottom of your heart because starting your own business is hard work, and if someone isn't genuinely passionate about it, they will most likely quit. Do your financial homework to have a realistic idea of how much it will cost, and don't forget to create a network. Connect with people that are on a similar journey as you and learn from their experience. Don't be afraid to ask questions!"

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