



I took my own advice to "Just do it!"

Show Mummy the money

Martin and I smiled as we flicked through our wedding album in July 1999. "It's just like a glossy mag!" I said, thrilled with the photographer's work on a magazine-style layout.

"One day I'd really love to do something like this myself," I said.

"Well then you should," Martin, 32, smiled.

Having always been in accounting, something as creative as this was a huge leap. But Martin and I wanted to have kids soon and a home business would be something I could do while taking care of a family.

So I decided to take the plunge and enrolled in a part-time photography course at night, while continuing my accounting job by day.

But six months into it, I felt things weren't moving fast enough. "I'm going to quit the course and get some hands-on experience," I told Martin one night.

I called a lot of photographers asking for volunteer work, and three agreed to take me on.

"I think I'm getting the hang of it already!" I said to Martin weeks later.

I realised forming a good relationship with clients was the key and after three

months of voluntary work, I felt confident to start up a business in December 2000.

I bought all the equipment I needed, and then told everyone I knew to spread the word. I also advertised in some bridal magazines.

Over the next few years business was steady and I loved it, but when our daughter, Jer'tarme, was born in May 2003, followed by Ethan in July 2004, I was pushed for time.

"You seem to know so much about business, you should write a book!" Martin urged. Although he was joking, I thought it was a good idea.

After speaking to friends and doing my research, I realised there were many women like me, who didn't

want to leave their kids, but needed income and some mental stimulation.

During the next year I spent two hours a day writing *Show Mummy the Money*, a book to help mums develop, start and maintain a home business.

"I'm so proud of you," Martin said, afterwards.

Currently the book is only available online but if sales go well, I'd also like to distribute it throughout maternity and baby stores.

I'd never written anything before and never dreamt I'd be able to, but I took my own advice to "Just do it!"

**Sonia Williams, 33,
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Show Mummy the Money is available at www.showmummythemoney.com.au