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Introduced by: Vanessa Stoykov, CEO, Evolution Media Group

Features: Alex Malley, CEO, CPA Australia interviewing Tony D'Aloisio

Family and leadership

Vanessa Stoykov: From a remote mountainous village in Italy to the heights of the Australian business world, Tony D'Aloisio has had many lessons to share about the value of hard work. Hello, I'm Vanessa Stoykov, the CEO of the Evolution Media Group, and on today's episode of evoTV's *The Bottom Line*, CPA Australia's CEO Alex Malley explores the hard knocks that shaped Tony as a man and how he manages the challenge of balancing personal and professional lives.

Alex Malley: Tony, welcome to the Bottom Line.

Tony D'Aloisio: Thanks Alex. Good to be here.

Alex Malley: Now of course D'Aloisio has got Italian written all over it and when I look back in the history of Italian leaders there's been a few colourful ones, in fact there may still be one in Italy as we speak. So to your background, born in Italy?

Tony D'Aloisio: Yeah, I was born in Italy in 1949 and we came out to Australia in 1956 with my parents and then two sisters and since then we added another, my parents added another three and we settled in the Yarra Valley in Victoria where well we all grew up, great spot.

Alex Malley: And so memories of Italy for you ...

Tony D'Aloisio: I think ...

Alex Malley: You were what 6 or 7?

Tony D'Aloisio: I was 6 or 7 so you do, I mean basically your memories, it was a very rural town in La Rocca, and really all those small towns post war the economies were really knocked about and basically migration was the key ... So fairly typical migrant story post war. I'm sure as you know there's hundreds of thousands of families in the same situation.

Alex Malley: I love the celebration of lives, that this 6 year old boy is shifted onto a boat I imagine to come to Australia and who would have picked there's one of Australia's future regulators. I mean it's fascinating, isn't it, how life works?

Tony D'Aloisio: I think the most exciting thing on that trip for me is when we got to Perth, I had my first banana. And I've always remembered.

Alex Malley: This bent fruit.

Tony D'Aloisio: I hadn't seen them before then. Yeah.



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Alex Malley: It's amazing isn't it?

Tony D'Aloisio: I mean I was the second eldest, my sister but I think my parents, like all migrants, were sort of driven by achieving securities. So for them educating us all, they treated us the same, really focused on education. They focused on buying a house, paying a house off.

Alex Malley: Double brick.

Tony D'Aloisio: Brick veneer, triple-fronted brick veneer which is the usual style out at Lilydale and I'm sure in broader areas. So I think we were lucky in that sense that we had parents who were really determined to try and improve our lot above what they'd gone through growing up...

Alex Malley: And so this push to the law was obviously your calling because you went straight to university to do law. What was the driver of that?

Tony D'Aloisio: Look it's quite interesting as to what it could be. My sisters have reflected on this ...

Alex Malley: As they do.

Tony D'Aloisio: As they do. They say it was because we used to watch a lot of television, the Perry Mason show and we used to have mock trials at our family and they think that that's what probably was the real influence. You can never really tell what was the motivating factor, ultimately it would have been a number of factors.

Alex Malley: Do you think looking back do you think you had a greater drive than average? Do you think there was something saying you had to be successful, you owed it to family?

Tony D'Aloisio: I think there is an element of insecure over achievement in my background as my friends will tell you. I think there is certainly in him whether I can extrapolate from that, I don't know but certainly you are driven to try and do the best you can in whatever you take on and indeed in terms of when you look at the investment my parents made I guess and everything else I think you obviously want them to be proud of you and they certainly were and are, well my mother is still alive.

Alex Malley: You know they would have been hard to please if they weren't.

Tony D'Aloisio: Very determined my mum and dad.

Alex Malley: So to Tony D'Aloisio that's navigated some fantastic roles some others wouldn't be game to take which you did. What does the future hold because you're young and there's plenty of time for another career? Is there a thought of that as you reflect on your relative free time at the moment?

Tony D'Aloisio: Yeah, look I said to myself that at the end of, when I finished at ASIC that I would take some time out, what I'm loosely calling my gap year, everyone has had a gap year, I forgot to have it when I was younger.



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Alex Malley: Sixty is the new 30.

Tony D'Aloisio: That's right. And I think in the next six to 12 months I'm clearly going to think about things but I would expect that in addition to, I think the greatest thing I think I'll be striving for is flexibility and more control over my time and what I do and I'll probably end up with a portfolio of two or three things that I concentrate on and some non-profit work. So I'm not gone, I'll be back as they say.

Alex Malley: There's something about the passion of people's work that never goes away and as the hands were flurrying around in that, clearly the passion remains Tony. What I would like to do is thank you very much for today and also to acknowledge that the roles you've played in your life, particularly at the public office level are not roles for the faint-hearted. And for all those Italians who are watching this, I know they'd be very proud of you. So good luck in the future and congratulations on your career.

Tony D'Aloisio: Thank you.