



Daddy's girls Tim says his daughters Natalia (left) and Lauren are balanced and caring women with a sense of fun.

**M**Y MUM DIED QUITE YOUNG and I respected her enormously. When I think about women who I know and admire, I think of my two daughters. I have such a strong relationship with both of them. Lauren is 24 and Natalia is 26. They are what I think epitomises modern women and the world is in good shape with a younger generation of women like them. They are smart, committed and compassionate.

In an oblique way, I admire my ex-wife, Julie, even though we don't see eye to eye. What she helped instil in them has made them independent, emotionally balanced women.

My daughters are so different and it's hard to believe they are from the same genetic makeup. Natalia was always committed. She came to me when she was 15 and said, "I'm going to be a TV journalist." She was always volunteering for public speaking and she went about things in a determined way. She knew the job wouldn't just fall into her lap and that she had to study hard. She's an organised young lady. Near the end of her undergraduate studies she was employed by Channel Nine as a journalist. She then went overseas and on her return picked up the job with Channel Seven (as weather presenter). She was always very sure of where she was going.

My second daughter, Lauren, did health sciences and occupational therapy. She now works with children with developmental delay, and that's a

very special skill. Lauren has always done a lot of volunteer work. When she was an undergraduate, she did Uni Camp for Kids. She also went off to India to work in an orphanage for two months. She lived in the most appalling circumstances, sleeping on the floor, getting nits and eating very basic food. Lauren's a real hygiene freak so normally she's very particular about her living environment and food.

So I'm pretty proud of my daughters — they're very balanced and caring. I think that's very important because they both come from a privileged background. They're also fun and energetic.

I think the greatest gift you can give to your children, apart from protecting them, is to give them self-esteem. In my business I often see a lack of self-esteem with women. Some of what I do might be considered unnecessary but when you see a woman's self-esteem improve from cosmetic surgery I think it's worthwhile. Women are different now. If a woman is growing old and doesn't like it, she does something about it whereas our mothers wouldn't have dreamed of it. Having children often spoils your figure and I get mothers coming in wanting things fixed. My mother's generation would say, "Oh, I can't afford it" or "I have other priorities". I have to be very aware that people can be vulnerable in certain stages of life and you can't take advantage of that. Sometimes I talk to women and ask them to come back to me in six months to a year, when they are in a better emotional space.

Appearance has a bearing on the initial attractiveness but it's not the be all and end all. Some of the most stunning women I've seen have a lack of self-esteem. I look for humour and honesty in women. I don't think you develop feelings for a woman unless you like the way they think. A woman could have a less-than-ideal figure but if she has a strong, happy personality, I would consider her attractive.

I don't think I'll ever understand women completely but I come into contact with women and their emotions more than anyone else just being in this profession. Ninety per cent of my patients are female. Men just don't have so many insecurities that they are prepared to act on. There is a lot of pressure on women today. I wonder how they cope. It must be confusing because, what are you supposed to be? A wife, a mum, a nurturer, or a corporate woman?

My daughters are well-balanced modern women who represent many of the women in this new generation and I think it's something all fathers can be very proud of. **WW**

Interview: Katie Hampson

Don't miss *The West Australian* this Tuesday for a special wraparound commemorating the centenary of International Women's Day. We will reveal the names of the 100 outstanding women chosen to be in the inaugural WA Women's Hall of Fame.