

**Chancellor, Vice Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. It is with great honour and pride that I stand here today and speak on behalf of the graduates assembled here receiving their awards.**

**As I look around the room I am reminded of the diverse array of graduates here, we have studied a variety of programs and disciplines, indeed today we have students present who have studied both across Australia and internationally including countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong, welcome, and congratulations on your achievements.**

**Indeed I would like to congratulate all my fellow graduates on their achievements and take the time to reflect on and recognise all the people who have provided guidance and support throughout our studies including family and friends without your love and support, the tough road to graduation would be all the more difficult. Families and friends hold your head high in the knowledge that your loved one has achieved a life milestone built on hard work and a commitment to succeed.**

**Throughout my time at Federation University I have participated in the student mentor program and have witnessed the transformation of many students through the acquisition and development of skills and knowledge and a deeper level of thinking that a tertiary education brings. On behalf of all the graduates here today I would like to express our thanks to all Federation University staff for their guidance and support throughout our respective programs. You have nurtured our minds, nourished our bodies and assisted us in creating countless future opportunities. Once again thank you.**

**Finally whilst today represents the completion of years of hard work, late nights, and cold early morning starts to attend lectures and tutorials and of course not to forget the stressors of deadlines and exams. To all graduates I say, the testamur we have coveted and hold so precious in our hands today represents more than hard work. Today through the pursuit of knowledge we hold in our hands endless opportunities to enhance and strengthen our lives and the lives of our loved ones. The diversity**

**represented here today represents the many pathways to be travelled. Amongst us today are future leaders in their chosen fields, future educators and researchers. Embrace the challenges we will face as we transition from acquiring knowledge to the application of this knowledge, it will only make us stronger.**

**Thank you.**