

Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, distinguished guests, fellow graduates, University staff and guests. On behalf of graduates receiving their awards today I would like to extend a thank you to all who have helped us to reach this very special day of our lives. I feel honoured and privileged to be able to speak on behalf of all graduating students that have completed their studies here or in variety of Federation University partner's locations.

We are here today to celebrate this amazing achievement and completing our journey of togetherness, a journey that we started alone but most certainly couldn't have completed without support from our Lecturers, University staff and the most important people in our lives, our family and friends. We all encountered similar challenges that included but were not limited to ongoing lack of sleep, endless assignments, exam nerves and for some of us the additional challenges of studying in a different language – English language not being our first language. Experiences that were similar but we all have been touched by different circumstances and we all have a different story to tell.

I acknowledge our journey of togetherness, because although my intentions were to do this all alone and as fast as I could, I know now that I couldn't have achieved this dream by myself no matter how much I love learning or how strong I am or how effective a learner I am. I am grateful for studying at Federation University and for all the encouragement and compassion I have received, as well as for the support from my husband, children, my family and friends.

We all have been honoured to be surrounded by such a diverse array of people on this journey and this piece of paper in our hands represent our accomplishments and our strong commitment to a life of learning and innovation. It also represents our special memories, moments and friendships that we have gained as students at Federation University and that will stay with us for a very long time.

Fellow Graduates, today we are celebrating and tomorrow a new exciting journey will begin....taking all our knowledge, determination and ability to succeed into our new careers, further studies or both. We will all continue to the next chapter in our lives following bigger dreams...I wish us all the best 😊
Enjoy!

Thank you all!