

FLINDERS UNIVERSITY GRADUATION CEREMONY

15 DECEMBER 2021 | REMARKS TO GRADUANDS

AUSTIN TAYLOR OAM on response to the Honorary Award of Doctor of the University

Good afternoon everyone. It is a pleasure to speak with you on what is a very exciting day for you.

I would like to begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land upon which we are meeting today in Adelaide, the Kurna people, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I also extend my respect to all other Indigenous nations, their representatives present here today, their future generations and acknowledge their continued connection to country.

Chancellor and The University Community, may I say a heartfelt Thank You for this award today. It is as unexpected as it is appreciated.

What is the essence of life? To serve others and to do good."

Spoken by Greek philosopher Aristotle over 2300 years ago, one of the most ancient quotes about volunteering offers proof that giving back to the community is hardly a new concept.

Graduands, I want to leave you with a thought and possibly inspire you to greater heights, by asking you to contemplate how you may apply your talents and gifts for the benefit of those who due to circumstances in life, are not as fortunate as you.

I refer of course to the act of giving and volunteering by serving others and to do good. Giving time and resources to the extent your circumstances in life permit should become a part of your fabric as a person. Not just something you do occasionally. I would like to see you all actively seek out an activity and commit your time to it. Only in that way and on a consistent and sustained basis, will you make a change for the better. And that is a fulfilling objective worthy of a graduate of this wonderful Flinders University.

As a start, I commend the University Alumni Programme to you. Please make sure you all join it and especially, participate.

You may also wish to participate in the Philanthropic work of The Flinders University Karmel Foundation.

No doubt there are many other worthy things to support as well.

As the great **Mahatma Gandhi said**, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Thank you all once again.