

Graduation Ceremony for Nazarene College of Nursing

03 March 2018

Speech

Acknowledgements:

- Principal of NCON ,
- Vice Principal NCON,
- Senior Academics and Officials of NCON,
- Distinguished guests
- Graduands
- Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning.

It is a great honour to be invited to speak here today and to take part in this celebration, the 2018 graduation ceremony at Nazarene College of Nursing.

It gives me great pleasure to be part of this of significant occasion – to witness graduands mark the end of one chapter in life and begin a new exciting one.

Graduation ceremonies are, of course, a significant milestone. They symbolise the culmination of years of endeavour and effort.

On behalf of the Australian High Commission, I would like take this opportunity to extend congratulations to all the graduands here today.

The Australian High Commission commends your dedication, diligence and hard work, all of which, and more, have brought you here to your successful graduation.

In this endeavour, you have likely been supported in many ways, by many people – your family, friends, lecturers, tutors, among others. Let me acknowledge and congratulate all who have played a role in supporting those graduating today.

Australia recognises the significance of boosting health workforce in PNG and has supported health-training institutions to increase the number and quality of health workers such as midwives, nurses and community health workers right across the country through its scholarships program and infrastructure support.

Nazarene College of Nursing under the Nazarene Health Ministries is a key partner in this endeavour - Australian Government has supported NCON through the Australia Awards program to provide scholarships that covers student accommodation and stipends. This includes, generous tuition fees provided to the school to enable the school to improve the quality of the education experience, such as through investing in better teaching and learning resources.

In addition, Australia has provided significant health infrastructure support to the Nazarene Hospital through the Incentive Fund Program that has improved the quality of health care and increased the hospital's capacity with adequate facilities to accommodate for clinical training for the nursing program.

Graduating today are 34 successful diploma in nursing program students, 18 of whom were funded under an Australia Awards Scholarship.

This ceremony today is evidence of the fantastic benefits that Australia's support is providing to individuals such as yourself and institutions such as NCON.

To the graduands before us – you are about to graduate as nurses. You have chosen an honourable path to work with pregnant women, newborn babies and the people in need of medical treatment. Your path in serving the people of PNG to improve health outcomes is an honourable one.

Today you can feel proud that you have been tested and succeeded, in proving that you have what it takes to contribute in the field of health and social development in PNG.

With this education, you can achieve great things not just for yourselves but also for Papua New Guinea.

The combination of new knowledge and skills you have learned here at NCON has enormous potential to increase how services are delivered when you perform your duties diligently.

Individually and together, you can help PNG achieve its full potential in improving the lives of all people.

I would like to acknowledge the dedicated and tireless work of the staff and management here at NCON who have contributed immensely to make this day possible.

Let me conclude by again wishing all the graduands one bright future. I wish you the best when you as nurses to contribute to health service delivery in your communities.

On behalf of the Australian High Commission, I again congratulate all those graduating today and all those who have supported you in your journey.

Congratulations.