Event: Bachelor of Nursing launch
Date: 15/06/2018
Arrival time: 2pm
Speaking time: 2.35pm (5 to 10 minutes)
Location: Sky Lounge, Level 3 AMDC

Speech notes
Vice-Chancellor Professor Linda Kristjanson AO
Acknowledgement of country

I would like to also respectfully acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which we gather, and pay respects to all Aboriginal Community Elders, past and present, who have resided in the area and have been an integral part of the history of this region.

Acknowledgements

- Kylie Ward, CEO of the Australian College of Nursing

Thank you all for being here today. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the official launch of Swinburne’s Bachelor of Nursing.

At Swinburne we take seriously our commitment to help create social and economic impact. Our Bachelor of Nursing Program sits squarely within that promise. We know that we can achieve the greatest impact by making sure that our research and teaching efforts are focussed in key areas critical to Australia’s future. Healthcare is one of these critical areas.

As the needs for health care grow and we see increasing complexity in ensure that we can deliver optimal health services to an ageing population, we must ensure that our graduates are well prepared. For these reasons, I am deeply passionate about our Bachelor of Nursing program.

It has been wonderful to see our first cohort of students developing knowledge, confidence and professional commitment to this important health profession.

We know that our students will graduate with distinctive graduates attributes – clinical competence, holistic knowledge of health and illness, a strong ethical compass, critical thinking abilities, a facility for working with new technologies and proficiency in working in teams. As future leaders in our health care system they will be well prepared to help assess, design and intervene to create positive health outcomes for our communities.
I know many people have contributed to our innovative, new course. Our nursing academic team who have all worked especially hard to develop a forward-thinking program. I would like to take a moment to recognise the leadership of Associate Professor Georgina Willetts and her committed team.

Thank you to all our academic and professional staff who have assisted us to arrive at this moment. And a warm thank you to our industry partners who have been critical to our success.

Our new course will give students access to innovative technology including complex simulated scenarios, allowing them to interact with virtual patients in a safe and realistic environment.

We have been fortunate to leverage Swinburne’s strengths in technology and innovation to ensure that our nursing students will be well prepared for current and future healthcare.

Our nursing graduates will benefit from the study of the design thinking and development, adoption and application of IT-based innovations in healthcare services delivery. Our graduates will be prepared to practice within present day realities of nursing and will also have a head-start in managing future health practice innovations.

Swinburne is committed to strengthening our efforts in health professional and allied health education. We are currently developing a Health Precinct at our Hawthorn campus. The new precinct includes laboratories specifically designed for the study of anatomy, biomechanics, exercise physiology, nutrition and dietetics.

Our students and academic staff who are learning and teaching in the precinct will have access to latest equipment and technology.
Swinburne has always been an ‘industry-connected’ university and we continue to build on our past as we develop new relationships, and new ways of working with industry.

By engaging with industry partners we are seeing our research in health sciences contribute to significant technological developments, including:

- intelligent medical, sports and wearable devices;
- an Australian-first device that measures changes in brain activity as anaesthesia is delivered to a patient; and
- innovative projects with the Royal Children’s Hospital to develop software for NAO robots working in paediatric rehabilitation

Our deep culture of industry-linked education has attracted people dedicated to education and research programs with real-world outcomes. However, this can only be achieved if we foster and develop strong industry partnerships.

It is crucial for nursing and all health students to be connected with industry throughout their studies, preparing them for the realities of the workforce.

I would invite those of you here today representing potential partner organisations to consider working with Swinburne to prepare our students for fulfilling careers or to consider us a research partner.

Swinburne is a university that welcomes collaboration with industry. We are eager to hear your ideas and share ours.

Thank you all for attending today and I look forward to the future connections we can make together.