

# Australian Chiropractic College Graduation 2025: President's speech

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Patrick Sim

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**Narrative:** Speech as delivered by the President of the Australian Chiropractic College, Dr Patrick Sim, at the 2025 Graduation Ceremony, Adelaide Australia.

**Indexing terms:** Chiropractic; History; South Australia; Australian Chiropractic College; Graduation.

## Preamble

*'To Paul Stevenson and members of the Board of Directors; to Prof John Jenkins and members of the Academic Board; to Natalie Simmons, ACC CEO and the college staff; to Assoc Prof Navine Haworth, Academic Dean and the college faculty; to Dr Kelly Holt, President New Zealand College Chiropractic, Dr Billy Chow, President of the ACA, international guests from Life University and Sherman College of Chiropractic and other international guests; to ACC's founding members Hayden, Mark, and Aaron; to my parents Colleen and Yeong Choon to whom I owe my drive and curiosity; to my wife Alexandra who created space, opportunity, love and support; to the parents, partners and families of those we celebrate today; to those who shared a coffee, a chat, a quiet moment and have loved and supported us all through this journey, ... and finally, to the graduands, welcome.'*

## Speech

**W**e have been on a journey, haven't we, you and I? Whether that 'you', is a student, a supporter, a loving parent, partner, husband or wife, or one of the remarkable people in the front row, we have all been in this together. Some of you have been in it longer than others but we have all played our part.

Today marks a significant moment in that journey. For today we celebrate! We celebrate that great things can be achieved by ordinary people; that focus, determination, and clarity of purpose count for something; and that Chiropractic again has a future in this country.

ACC's logo features three concentric rings arranged in a triumvirate to represent the philosophy, science and art of chiropractic. These rings are an Aboriginal motif for 'meeting place'. We adopted these symbols as a vision for ACC to be a place where all

*'... We honour ACC's first graduating class, the Class of '25, and celebrate their achievements ...'*



could come together and be at one, to be at peace, to rejuvenate, to learn, to grow. ACC would be a place that people could call home.

‘Concordia’ is the Roman goddess of peace. Concordia means ‘*harmony*’, ‘*unity*’, to ‘*come together with one heart*’. This weekend unifies the magic imbibed within that Aboriginal motif with the echo of that ancient goddess, and it draws us, for hundreds of us have journeyed here for this moment.

For this moment...

Take a moment. Consider all that has happened for us to arrive here:

- The foresight
- The determination
- The perseverance
- The giving
- The endeavour

Look around you and see the faces here. Remember what they did for this moment to arrive. Was it encouragement, was it love, was it money, skills, know-how, experience, that they gave for this moment. Perhaps what they do is to provide witness to this small moment but this great occasion.

And it is a great occasion. For today, we say farewell to 25 students, transfigured, and we welcome to our profession the Australian Chiropractic College’s 25 inaugural Chiropractors.

To my profession, know the sacrifice we have made to present these 25 chiropractors to you. Cherish them, guide them, be there for them, respect them for they will be greater than you. To our graduates: the weight of expectation on you is heavy but no more than the expectations you place on yourself. Be kind and gentle with yourself. Find your own way. Maintain high standards. Have fun. And ask yourself, when we are gone, and fate comes knocking, will you continue to keep the flame alive?

On behalf of the Board of Directors, the Academic Board, and founders of the ACC, I congratulate you my students, I commend you to the profession, and I wish you success in a life of service in the communities that truly need you.

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