

Rob Chapman speech to UniSA Business graduates

Wednesday March 29 2006

- Welcome – thankyou for asking me to speak today – it’s a great pleasure to be up here addressing such a large gathering of graduates from UniSA’s Division of Business.
- As a graduate of UniSA myself and a member of its alumni, I have a very strong affinity with this institution. And of course as the MD of BankSA I am particularly pleased to see so many fine young people coming through the school of commerce and management.
- A special warm welcome to those of you who have returned to Adelaide from overseas to be here today – I think this shows how important your educational experience at UniSA has been to you and I am sure you will treasure your friendships and memories from your time here.
- I also understand that many of you are already in the workforce and have seen the value of developing your knowledge and skills through postgraduate study.

- I congratulate you on your achievements, particularly considering how difficult it must be to juggle your work and studies – not to mention family life or outside interests.
- But I'm sure you've received great support from your employers who would also see the benefits of embracing new ideas and concepts in today's competitive business environment.
- For those of you who are just entering the workforce, this is certainly a milestone in your education and a time of transition from student life to working life.
- Although many of you have probably already found work, there may be some of you who are still finalising your career options.
- Fortunately, you are graduating at a time when there is a surplus of jobs in many sectors of the SA economy – in fact the State's unemployment level is at a record low. But of course that doesn't necessarily equate to jobs for younger people and jobs in all professions.
- That's why - as a State - we need to clearly identify where the skills gaps are and provide training or attract people with the right skills and qualifications to fill these gaps.

- But I think it is pretty safe to say that the finance sector in South Australia is flourishing and it is a good time to be starting or developing your careers in this field.
- There are some very exciting economic developments on the horizon, such as the air warfare destroyer contract and the expansion of Olympic Dam which will provide great opportunities, both directly and indirectly, for all sectors of the economy.
- And while training and apprenticeship programs are absolutely vital for workforce development, in the finance sector there is undoubtedly an advantage in having a qualification behind you.
- At BankSA we are focussed on not only attracting bright young people to the banking sector, but we are also very much aware of the need to retain staff and provide all of our people with rewarding careers and professional development opportunities.
- We also recognise the need to be a flexible, family-friendly workplace which I am sure the postgraduate students will appreciate.
- From my own perspective, I have done what many South Australians have done in the past and will do in the future and that is to have furthered my career interstate (talk about own experience).

- But I have also been fortunate to find a rewarding career and a fantastic quality of life for me and my family here in Adelaide and I think sometimes we forget, or take for granted, how good we have it here.

- Over the past month there has certainly been no more exciting and dynamic place to be – what with the Adelaide Festival, the Fringe (which BankSA has sponsored for the first time this year), the Adelaide Cup Carnival, WOMADelaide and the Clipsal 500.

- Through our partnership with the Fringe, the organisers are hoping to be able to stage an event every year which will be great for Adelaide and make it even more of a centre for the arts than before.

- I'm sure as students you would know the importance of having a vibrant, creative environment and hopefully we can build on this attribute to attract more people to study, work and live in our State.

- Congratulations and good luck.