

# media release

## SA Metropolitan Fire Service



### Crash survivor's RAP message after tragic period on SA roads

Monday, 8 December 2014

For road crash survivor Yudhi Mohan-Ram, the final MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentation to South Australian high school students this year will be a special one.

After a tragic week on the state's roads, Yudhi will share his story of survival with Pembroke School students, where his three daughters attend.

"I suffered severe injuries after a P-Plater ran a stop sign and t-boned me on my motorbike at an intersection. These included a bruised heart, broken ulna and radius, broken collarbone, broken ribs, smashed wrist, broken tibia and fibia. My lungs are permanently affected and my voice box has had to be rebuilt four times."

"After a tragic time with several fatalities on our roads, I'll be urging students – who are about to start school holidays - to look after themselves and their mates on the roads this festive season," Mr Mohan-Ram said.

MFS Station Officer and RAP Coordinator, Chas Thomas said firefighters find summer a difficult time – especially if they have to respond to road crashes so close to Christmas and the New Year.

"Last summer, 20 people died in crashes on South Australian roads in three months. Firefighters don't want to respond to these incidents, and families don't want to lose loved ones."

"Our message to the students today as they embark on summer holidays, is to have the confidence to speak up if you feel unsafe. Speak up if you see your mate potentially making a mistake like drink-driving. Step in, take the keys and make a difference. You don't want to live with the regret of not saying anything," MFS Station Officer Thomas said.

In recent years, South Australia's road toll in RAP's target age group of 16-19 year olds has dropped considerably.

MFS Station Officer, Chas Thomas said while zero fatalities are our goal, firefighters are starting to see positive signs of change.

"As part of our RAP presentations we receive feedback that's showing that young drivers are *owning* road safety. They're using positive peer pressure within their friendship groups to encourage safe behaviour. They're speaking up and protecting themselves and their friends."

Parents of the students who'll experience today's RAP presentation at Pembroke School attended their own special Parent RAP at Beulah Park MFS Station last week. The MFS, with the support of Adelaide BMW, started the Parent RAP initiative to encourage parents to lead by example with their own driver behaviour and to ensure students arrive home from RAP with full parental support.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) has reached more than 110,000 licence aged drivers across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is supported by sponsors the RAA, Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

**Media are welcome to attend the final MFS student RAP presentation for 2014.**

| Date       | Time    | Location  | Duration   |
|------------|---------|---|------------|
| Mon, 8 Dec | 1.45 pm | Pembroke School<br>342 The Parade, Kensington Pk. | 90 minutes |

**INTERVIEWS:** MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas, crash survivor Yudhi Mohan-Ram and Pembroke students.

**For media enquiries and interviews call the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770**

To contact MFS RAP Coordinator, Chas Thomas directly call – 0409 043 067

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