

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Students empowered to be better road users by MFS RAP team

Tuesday, 6 June 2017

Port Pirie students will participate in the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) this week where they will be empowered to want to be generational changemakers in road safety. This follows a successful series of presentations to both students and the wider-community in **Roxby Downs** last week.

MFS firefighters and road crash survivors present the positive, engaging and emotionally powerful road safety program to licence aged secondary school students across the state.

MFS Station Officer, Brad Ryan, said a key message of RAP is 'people don't care how much you show off, but they want you to show how much you care'.

MFS Station Officer Ryan said, "Students care greatly about their mates when it comes to road safety. After experiencing RAP, they'll involve their friends in discussions about the power of positive and constructive peer pressure to eliminate dangerous driving behaviours.

"The students will learn that road crashes caused while driving fatigued account for approximately 30% of all regional road fatalities. The RAP team encourages students to identify options to address fatigue including sharing the driving with others in the vehicle. Alternatively, if they're driving alone, they'll recognise the benefits of pulling over to stop and rest.

"Choices made by road users are reflected in road crash statistics and these are not the sole domain of drivers. Passengers and pedestrians can and do play a significant role, too.

"RAP empowers passengers to speak up if they're in a car where the driver is or other passengers are exhibiting dangerous behaviour and provides them with solutions to exit. No one should feel unsafe as a passenger in a vehicle," said MFS Station Officer Ryan.

Joining the MFS will be guest presenter and road crash survivor Eli Murn who will share his personal experience of road trauma. Eli was a promising sportsman who now lives with an acquired brain injury due to a road crash incident.

Eli now focusses on educating young drivers through the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP). His message is that taking just one risk on the road can have major consequences. "I'd like to make a *universe of positive out of my personal negative*," he said.

The award winning MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) has reached more than 150,000 licence aged drivers and road users across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is generously supported by sponsors the RAA, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

WHAT: Students empowered to be better road users at
MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations (session details below)

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Wed, 7 June 2017	8.55 am	St Mark's Port Pirie	100 minutes
Wed, 7 June 2017	1.35 pm	John Pirie Secondary School	100 minutes

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Station Officer Brad Ryan and road crash survivor, Eli Murn will be available for interview.

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

www.mfs.sa.gov.au