

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## **Look after your mates on the roads this summer**

Tuesday, 10 December 2013

With school holidays fast approaching, Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters are urging young drivers to look after their mates on the roads this summer.

Firefighters will make their message clear with the help of quadriplegic road crash survivor, Tyele Riddle at the **final** MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentation of the 2013 school year.

**The final MFS RAP presentation of 2013 will be held at Pembroke School, Kensington Park on Tuesday, 10 December from 8.30 am. Media are welcome to attend.**

Guest RAP presenter, Tyele Riddle is quadriplegic due to one mistake on the road. Today she'll reinforce to the group of Year 10 students that they have their lives and dreams ahead of them.

"Look after yourselves and your mates these holidays by being a safe road user and not taking risks that could take your future," Tyele said.

In 2013, the MFS Road Awareness Program has been delivered to more than 140 schools and 16,600 licence-aged high school students across South Australia.

MFS RAP Coordinator, Station Officer Rod Campbell will co-present today's confronting, emotional and hard-hitting Road Awareness Program (RAP).

"As firefighters, we dread responding to road crash incidents at any time of year - but particularly over the festive season and especially when young people are involved. For families, it should be a time for celebration, not a time for dealing with the trauma of a fatal or serious injury crash."

"While students at today's RAP presentation will confront the realities of road crash, they'll leave feeling empowered to lead by example and look after their mates on the roads," MFS Station Officer Campbell said.

In recent years, South Australia has seen a significant drop in road crash fatalities in the Road Awareness Program's target age group of 16-19 year old drivers.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>SA ROAD CRASH FATALITIES</b>
<b>2010 (16-19 year olds)</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>2011 (16-19 year olds)</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>2012 (16-19 year olds)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2013 (16-19 year olds)</b>	<b>1 (YTD)</b>

MFS Station Officer, Rod Campbell said 16 to 19 year olds are doing an amazing job of creating generational change in road safety attitudes with a reduction in the road toll and serious injuries.

"We want all young drivers to take the RAP message of '*looking after our mates*' with them over the school holidays and to safely return to school or University in early 2014. It all comes down to taking responsibility for our actions and creating positive peer pressure amongst our friendship groups. We're finding students are wanting to take responsibility and make a difference."

The RAP team of MFS firefighters and road crash survivors will be back in 2014 presenting to licence aged drivers at high schools across Adelaide and regional South Australia.

**Minister for Emergency Services and Road Safety, Michael O'Brien MP and MFS Chief Officer, Grant Lupton will attend today's RAP presentation at Pembroke School.**

**EVENT:** Final MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) for 2013

**LOCATION:** Pembroke School, 342 The Parade, Kensington Park.

**DATE:** Presentation **begins 8.30 am on Tuesday, 10 December 2013** (90 minutes)  
*Interview opportunities with MFS firefighters, crash survivor Tyele Riddle and Pembroke students immediately after the presentation (at about 10 am).*

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

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