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RAP - Road Awareness Program

What Is RAP

The South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) is a powerful presentation aimed at educating students in road awareness. RAP targets licence-aged drivers and road users at secondary schools across South Australia.

MFS firefighters present an honest and moving Road Awareness Program where they take students on a journey to see the consequences of bad decision making. Their message is that through '**Concentration and Commonsense**' almost all road crashes are avoidable. The MFS believes if we start with new drivers at 16 years old we can create a positive generational change in driving attitude, and significantly reduce the carnage on our roads.

Discussions focus on how people are affected by road crashes and how a young person's life may change following a motor vehicle crash. Crash videos and photographs are also incorporated into the presentation. The videos and images are high impact but have been edited to ensure they're suitable to be shown to Year 11 students. Crash survivors tell their story during the presentation in the hope that students will learn from their mistakes.

The program seeks to inspire students to take responsibility for their decisions and behaviour and motivate them not only to practise safe driving but to demand it amongst their peers.

What Is The Cost?

MFS RAP is delivered by firefighters and road crash survivors, and is offered free of charge to schools.

The duration of the program is 90 minutes.

Addressing Best Practice Road Safety Education in Schools

The 16 Principles for School Road Safety Education have been devised by education experts and based on research to ensure content and delivery methods of road safety education are consistent with what is currently understood to be best practice in the field.



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The MFS aims to address the 16 National Principles for School Road Safety Education as follows:

Overarching Principle

Principle 1: Implement evidence-based road safety education programs and initiatives in schools and include local research and current legislation where available.

MFS RAP incorporates ongoing research using statistics gained from MFS, South Australia Police (SAPOL), Department of Transport Energy and Infrastructure (DTEI), schools, teachers and students via evaluation forms and other road safety stakeholders and groups.

Curriculum

Principle 2: Embed road safety education programs within a curriculum framework thereby providing timely, developmentally appropriate and ongoing road safety education for all year levels.

RAP is developmentally appropriate and targets new licence-aged drivers.

Follow up activities and surveys for students, students and teachers, students and parents are provided to enable reinforcement of RAP.

Principle 3: School management supports staff to effectively implement road safety education by ensuring access to available resources and professional learning opportunities.

Currently approximately 40% of secondary schools in South Australia support their teachers by including RAP in their curriculum.

MFS aims to deliver to 90% of secondary schools from 2011.

Principle 4: Use student-centred, interactive strategies to develop students' utility knowledge, skills, attitudes, motivation and behaviours regarding road safety.

RAP actively engages students in crash scenarios where the knowledge and skills gained helps them develop better attitudes, decision making skills and behaviours regarding road safety.

Principle 5: Actively engage students in developing skills that focus on identifying and responding safely to risk situations.

Students are encouraged to identify risk situations and to establish and apply techniques learned in the class to respond safely and appropriately to protect themselves, peers and families.

Principle 6: Provide information to parents / carers that will encourage them to reinforce and practice road safety skills developed in the classroom, in the real road environment.

RAP incorporates tools for students to engage their parents / carers in supporting their road safety skills via a "Parent Young Person Safe Driving Agreement" developed by Dr Bill Griggs, Head of Trauma at the Royal Adelaide Hospital.

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Principle 7: Encourage students to support and influence their peers positively as a way of improving road safety behaviour.

The program encourages positive peer pressure in regard to road safety and supports group discussions within the school to enhance skills learned from the program. It aims to create role models amongst peers and continual positive influence through social media and follow up contact.

Social media is used as a forum for students to share comments and views about road safety.

Ethos And Environment

Principle 8: Consult the wider school community when developing road safety guidelines and then disseminate this information to families and monitor implementation.

Parental consent forms are provided prior to each program allowing parents to make informed decisions regarding their children's road safety education.

Notification of the program is encouraged in school newsletters and local media.

RAP provides parents and school staff with tools to implement messages of Road Safety and reinforce messages from RAP. RAP also surveys students and teachers following the presentation.

Principle 9: School management actively promotes road safety education by supporting staff to plan and implement road safety education within the curriculum and other school programs and initiatives.

Currently approximately 40% of secondary schools within South Australia are committed to road safety by annually including RAP in their schools' curriculum.

Principle 10: School management actively encourages staff to model appropriate road safety behaviour and attitudes consistent with the school's road safety guidelines.

The MFS encourages staff and students to continue learning and practising road safety messages by using the Peer Group Road Safety Agreements.

Materials are provided as reminders for messages and skills learned in RAP.

Principle 11: Encourage and promote school-community participation in school road safety programs.

RAP aims to influence attitudes and long term behavioural change of students, staff and the wider community. It includes a 'Peer Group Road Safety Agreement' to promote discussion and improve families' and friends' safety on the roads. RAP also provides material for students to keep to reinforce messages provided in the presentation.

Principle 12: Review and update where necessary, in partnership with external authorities, the school traffic environment to encourage and support parents to practise road safety skills.

The MFS is actively involved in reviewing road safety strategies in community discussions, education policies, National and State Road Safety Strategies with all relevant stakeholders.

Parents And Community

Principle 13: Provide parents with information that will assist them to reinforce appropriate road safety messages and skills (including school guidelines) at home.

RAP provides students with a 'Parent - Young Person Safe Driving Agreement' for families to reinforce lessons, strategies and behaviours learned. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in road safety through this agreement.

Principle 14: Provide parents and carers with practical, opportunistic and planned, on-road training for modelling of appropriate behaviours to their children.

No on-road training given. The focus of RAP is to create a positive generational change in driving attitude.

Principle 15: Establish and maintain links and involve community agencies and local government in the delivery of road safety messages that complement and support existing school road safety programs.

MFS meets with other educators and stakeholders to review road safety initiatives and it offers RAP to community groups outside of the mainstream education system.

RAP aims to complement other law and enforcement programs by addressing young drivers' attitudes, decision making and behaviours.

Principle 16: Engage, train and resource school health service staff to complement and support road safety education programs and other initiatives in schools.

The MFS encourages teachers and role models to use the tools supplied with the program to actively reinforce its messages and road safety education.

How Can Your School Become Involved?

Please contact the Community Safety and Resilience Department at the MFS to enquire about booking RAP for your school.

Phone: 8204 3611, country callers 1300 737 637

Email: SAMFScommunitysafety@sa.gov.au

We will liaise closely with you in the lead up to the program, to discuss promotion of RAP to families and the community and to arrange for consent form to be signed.