

media release



BUILDING TRUST WITH NEWLY ARRIVED REFUGEES

The Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) will join forces with other emergency service organisations in helping to build a trusting relationship with newly arrived refugees, at a community event held at Oasis Community Childcare Centre tomorrow.

MFS personnel and a fire appliance will attend the event at the Oasis Community Childcare Centre to help educate families from various backgrounds including African countries, Afghanistan and Burma about important fire safety messages and to help break down trust, cultural and language barriers.

Commander Chris Smith says, "The MFS is working hard to develop relationships with migrant communities, and events such as these compliment existing activities focusing on improving awareness across diverse cultural groups about home fire safety.

"The MFS deals with emergency situations involving people from different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. It's vital that life saving information reaches every one in the community."

"As an emergency service we continually look at ways to better reach people who may be more vulnerable."

"To most South Australians a red fire truck is synonymous with the MFS and hopefully with having a red fire appliance on hand it will help to more easily engage the children."

The Oasis Community Childcare Centre's Director Nikki Baker says dialling "000" is easy, but some newly arrived refugees find it hard to communicate or describe their locations in an emergency.

"Some newly arrived refugees have had poor experiences with people in uniforms in their home countries, and this can inhibit the development of trust when they arrive in Australia."

The event is funded through the Federal Government's "Living in Harmony" program.

EVENT DETAILS: **Wednesday 28 May, from 9:45am until 10:30am**
Oasis Childcare Centre, 27 Ann St, Salisbury.