

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Paralympian Ryan Scott's last RAAPP (Road Awareness and Accident Prevention Program)

26 November 2008

Australian Wheelchair Rugby silver medallist from the Beijing Paralympic Games, Ryan Scott will present for the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) for the last time on Thursday 27 November 2008. He is one of the key components in the very successful MFS Road Awareness and Accident Prevention Program.

Ryan is a wheelchair-bound quadriplegic as a result of a motor vehicle accident in 1998. He was trapped in his friend's vehicle for two hours before being extricated and airlifted to the Royal Adelaide Hospital. In the frantic hours that followed the doctors feared the worst before Ryan's spirit and courage saw him survive.

Ryan has been an integral part of the RAAP Program since its inception and makes a passionate plea for students not to make the same mistakes he made at their age. The RAAP Program, sponsored by AAMI, is delivered by the MFS to year 11 students in high schools throughout metropolitan Adelaide and country South Australia. The program has been running for four years, delivering 257 programs to over 30 000 students.

Ryan and the MFS present the hard hitting and emotional RAAP Program and give students the opportunity to see the consequences of bad decision making. Their message is, through '*Concentration and Commonsense*', almost all accidents are avoidable. The MFS believe a generational change in attitude will help reduce dramatically the carnage on our roads, and that starts with students of driving licence age. Statistics show that transport accidents are the number one cause of death for 16-25 year olds throughout Australia.

Ryan plans to move to Brisbane, with his fiancé Sabrina, in early 2009 and will continue chasing gold with the Australian Wheelchair Rugby team.

After the RAAPP presentation Anne Battams from AAMI will present the MFS with the keys to a brand new RAAPP vehicle as part of their continued and valued sponsorship. The vehicle is a mobile message to all road users to use '*Concentration and Commonsense*' when on the roads.

WHAT:	Road Awareness and Accident Prevention Program including practical demonstration MFS fire crews performing a road crash rescue
WHEN:	9.30 am, Thursday 27 November 2008
WHERE:	Concordia College, Cheltenham Street, Highgate

For further information call the MFS media line on 8204 3770