

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS RAP inspires students to lead by example as road users

Friday, 19 October 2018

Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters will inspire students from Moonta Area School and Minlaton District School to lead by example as selfless road users when the Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits next week.

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

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

"When it comes to road safety, students want to show how much they care about their mates. While RAP is a confronting program, it inspires a culture of positive peer pressure and encourages students to lead by example with selfless driver and road user behaviour."

"RAP encourages students to speak out against selfish behaviour, which helps to eliminate dangerous situations from arising. And, with about 30% of regional road fatalities linked to driver fatigue, students identify options to address fatigue such as sharing the drive or pulling over to rest," MFS Station Officer Sutton said.

The role of passengers, pedestrians and cyclists is highlighted during the RAP presentation.

"RAP provides the tools for students who are passengers to speak up in a car where the driver or other passengers are exhibiting dangerous behaviour. No one should feel unsafe as a passenger in a vehicle and the students are provided solutions for exiting these situations," said MFS Station Officer Sutton.

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

Eli is determined to focus on educating young drivers through the MFS RAP. His message highlights that taking just one risk on the road can have major consequences.

"There is a sorely attitude change needed Australia-wide in regards to road safety. By sharing my story, I hope that audience members can easily lead this change into the future," he said.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP), a finalist in the National Road Safety Excellence Awards for a number of years has reached more than 170,000 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), the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation charity and SA Power Networks.

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

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Monday, 22 October 2018	8:45 AM	Moonta Area School	100 minutes

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

www.mfs.sa.gov.au

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Tuesday, 23 October 2018	12:45 PM	Minlaton District School	
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Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Firefighter, Station Officer Mark Sutton and road crash survivor, Eli Murn will be available for interview.

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