

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



MFS warns young drivers, “your choices reflect your safety”

26 July 2019

Sam Pearce, a road crash survivor, who was left with an acquired brain injury after the car she was in crashed, joins the MFS by sharing her powerful message to regional secondary school students.

On 29 and 30 July, she will join Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Station Officer Mark Sutton in delivering the engaging and emotionally powerful Road Awareness Program (RAP) to students across the Mid North.

MFS Station Officer Mark Sutton said a key message of RAP is ‘You can choose the risk, but you can’t chose the consequences’.

“Students will learn that driver fatigue contributes to an estimated 20-30% of road crash fatalities in Australia each year¹. The RAP team encourages students to identify options to address fatigue including sharing the driving with others in the vehicle. Alternatively, if they’re driving alone, they’ll recognise the benefits of pulling over to stop and rest,” explained MFS Station Officer Mark Sutton.

RAP also raises the issue of being distracted when driving, such as through the use of mobile phones, and empowers young people to speak up if they’re in a car where the driver or other passengers exhibit dangerous behaviour. The program provides students with solutions to exit the vehicle safely.

“Everyone has the right to be safe on our roads. Choices made by road users are reflected in road crash statistics and these are not the sole domain of drivers.” MFS Station Officer Mark Sutton said.

As an integral member of the MFS RAP team of guest presenters, Sam describes the impact that being involved in a road crash incident has had on her life.

“If I can save one person and their family from going through what my family and I have been through, and are still going through, I’ve done my job” explains Sam.

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

The MFS thanks generous program sponsors the Motor Accident Commission (MAC), the RAA, SA Power Networks and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) for helping RAP reach up to 85 % of secondary school students across the state.

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

Date	Time	Location	Duration
29 July	11:00	Booleroo Centre District School	90 minutes
30 July	09:10	Peterborough High School	90 minutes
30 July	13:00	Gladstone High School	90 minutes

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Station Officer Mark Sutton will be available for interview.

¹ https://roadsafety.gov.au/nrss/files/NRSS_2011_2020.pdf

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