

# media release

## SA Metropolitan Fire Service



### MFS Road Awareness Program visits Pt Pirie students

Monday, 1 June 2015

You might choose to take a risk on the roads, but you cannot choose the consequences.

That's the message South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters will reinforce to Pt Pirie students when the organisation's Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits local high schools this week.

MFS RAP Coordinator and Station Officer Chas Thomas has extricated countless road crash victims from vehicles during his firefighting career.

"While the program is graphic, emotional and challenging for the students, ultimately it leaves them feeling empowered to create positive changes in driver behaviour on the roads, including positive peer pressure amongst their friendship groups," MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas said.

"Road crash survivor Tyele Riddle and I look forward to presenting RAP at Pt Pirie high schools this week. One of the questions we'll be asking the students is how many people are impacted by a fatal or serious injury road crash."

"People tend to think it's just close friends and family impacted by a serious road crash, when in fact it can run into the hundreds of people who are left traumatised, saddened and devastated. Road tragedies can be acutely painful for close-knit regional communities," MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas said.

While people may hold the view that city people tend to die in crashes on country roads, statistics indicate that people living in country areas are up to two and a half times more likely to die or suffer serious injuries in a road crash than their city counterparts.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) has reached more than 120,000 licence aged drivers across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is supported by sponsors the RAA, Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

**Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed below** for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinator Chas Thomas and road crash survivor Tyele Riddle will be available for interview.

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Wed, 3 June	8.55 am	St Mark's College Pt Pirie	100 minutes
Wed, 3 June	1.35 pm	John Pirie Secondary School	100 minutes

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

[www.mfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.mfs.sa.gov.au)