

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



RAP visits Fleurieu Peninsula students

Monday, 2 September 2013

Students from **Fleurieu Peninsula** high schools will confront the realities and responsibilities of driving when the Metropolitan Fire Service's (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits this week.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) will visit two local high schools to reinforce the road safety message and ask students to look after their mates on the roads.

MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas and road crash survivor Eli Murn will share their personal experiences of road trauma with local high school students. Eli was a promising sportsman who now lives with an acquired brain injury due to a road crash incident.

Eli focuses on educating young drivers through the Road Awareness Program (RAP). His message is that just one mistake on the road can have major consequences. "I'd like to make a *universe of positive* out of my personal negative," he said.

RAP Coordinator, MFS Station Officer, Chas Thomas said, "RAP is a confronting, hard-hitting yet uplifting presentation that reinforces the message that we must look after our mates on the road."

"Another key message is that while we can choose to take a risk, we cannot choose its consequences. RAP leaves students feeling empowered to make positive changes on the roads by committing to safe driving," MFS Station Officer Thomas said.

The use of mobile phones by drivers and pedestrians will also be a focus of the program.

"The dangers of using a mobile phone while driving are very real. It has the potential to cause a driver to lose their own life or cause the loss of other lives, including those of their friends. Mobile phone use is one of the key road risks students will learn about," MFS Station Officer Thomas said.

RAP has received national praise after being delivered to the nation's future football and cricketing greats at the AFL Players' Association's and Australian Cricketers' Association's induction camps at the MCG in Melbourne.

The program's reach to Year 11 students across the state has increased. A State Government funding boost has allowed the MFS to appoint a second RAP presenter (firefighter), meaning more schools and students benefit from the program in city and **regional** areas.

WHAT: Fleurieu Peninsula students urged to look after their mates at MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations

WHERE & WHEN: See session times and locations (below):

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Tues, 3 September	9.00 am	Murraylands Christian School	90 minutes
Tues, 3 September	1.30 pm	Eastern Fleurieu School	90 minutes

VISUAL AND INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES:

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinator, Chas Thomas and road crash survivor, Eli Murn will be available for interview.

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

To contact RAP Coordinator, Chas Thomas directly call 0409 043 067

www.mfs.sa.gov.au