

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Road crash survivor urges students to look after their mates

Monday, 7 February 2011

Road crash survivor, Tyele Riddle knows the life-long impact one mistake on the road can have. In 2008, she was involved in a crash in the Riverland that left her quadriplegic.

On Tuesday, she'll join Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighters in delivering an emotional, confronting Road Awareness Program (RAP) to Year 11 students at **Gawler High School**.

(*This will be the **first** RAP presentation to South Australian high school students **in 2011**.)

MFS Station Officer, Mark Haylock will co-present the program with Tyele, from the perspective of a firefighter who has more than 20 years of experience in extricating injured and deceased people from crashes.

"One of the saddest things I've witnessed as a firefighter, is seeing young people injured and killed in car crashes. As Australians, we pride ourselves in looking after our friends, and this is one of the key messages of RAP - let's look after our mates, not harm them.

"RAP contains graphic information, photos and videos that give students no room to hide from the realities of road trauma. But they'll leave the program feeling empowered, knowing they can make a difference on our roads," Station Officer Haylock said.

2011 is an exciting year for RAP. In January, the program was presented to 120 of the nation's newest AFL players at the AFL Players' Association's induction camp at the MCG in Melbourne. Young players and representatives from various AFL clubs have indicated they were strongly impacted by the program's messages.

Also in 2011, the program's reach to Year 11 students across the state will double. A State Government funding boost has allowed the MFS to appoint a second RAP presenter (firefighter), meaning more schools and students will benefit.

RAP encourages licence aged students to create generational change on our roads by leading the way in their behaviour as road users.

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

Further information for the public:

Call the MFS Community Education Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours.

Country callers 1300 737 637.

www.mfs.sa.gov.au