

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



RAP visits Unity College Murray Bridge for student and parent presentations

Monday, 20 April 2015

Murray Bridge Unity College high school students and their parents will confront the realities and responsibilities of driving when the Metropolitan Fire Service's (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits on Tuesday, 28 April, 2015 and Wednesday, 29 April, 2015.

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) will visit the school to present to parents of year 11 students on the evening of Tuesday, 28 April 2015 and the students during the morning of Wednesday, 29 April 2015 to reinforce the road safety messages.

Unity College and the MFS RAP team also extend an invitation to any members of the local community interested in road safety to attend the Tuesday evening presentation.

MFS Station Officer Rod Campbell 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 now 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, Rod Campbell said, "RAP can be confronting and hard-hitting yet is uplifting in its reinforcement of 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 Campbell 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 Campbell said.

The MFS Road Awareness Program was one of six category finalists in the 2014 Australian Road Safety Awards. MFS RAP team representatives received their Award from the Australian Road Safety Foundation in November.

The program's reach to Year 11 students across the state increased during 2013 and 2014 and with additional funding is branching out to engage with parents of students. We find that adults who've attend a RAP leave the presentation feeling inspired to lead by example in their community – including by setting a positive driving example to their children, relatives and the children of friends.

WHAT: Unity College, Murray Bridge students and parents 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
Tuesday, 28 April	7.00 pm	Unity College, Murray Bridge	90 minutes
Wednesday, 29 April	11.20 am	Unity College, Murray Bridge	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, Rod Campbell 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

www.mfs.sa.gov.au