

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## MFS Road Awareness Program visits Whyalla and Port Augusta students

Thursday, 7 April 2016

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 Port Augusta and Whyalla students when the organisation's Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits local high schools next week.

MFS RAP Coordinator and Station Officer Brad Ryan 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. We believe that students can be positive role models amongst their friendship groups," MFS Station Officer Brad Ryan said.

"Road crash survivor Eli Murn and I look forward to presenting the MFS RAP at Whyalla and Port Augusta 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 involving a 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 Brad Ryan 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 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 Brad Ryan and road crash survivor Eli Murn will be available for interview.

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Mon, 11 April	9.00 am	Edward John Eyre High School	100 Minutes
Mon, 11 April	1.45 pm	Whyalla Samaritan College	100 minutes
Tues, 12 April	9.00 am	Port Augusta Secondary School	100 minutes

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