

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Firefighters empower Yorke Peninsula students to beat road fatigue

Friday, 21 October 2016

Yorke Peninsula students will learn that fatigue is a key risk to country drivers when the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) visits local students next week.

MFS firefighters and road crash survivors present the positive, engaging and hard-hitting road safety program to licence aged secondary school students across South Australia.

MFS Station Officer Brad Ryan said unfortunately fatigue is a major risk to regional drivers.

“The students will learn that driving while fatigued accounts for approximately 30 % of all regional road fatalities. We teach students that if they become tired while driving, they have options. These include sharing the driving with others. If they’re driving alone, they must identify the need to pull over, stop and rest.”

MFS Station Officer Ryan said people tend to think road safety is the sole responsibility of drivers, whereas all road users, including passengers and pedestrians have a significant role.

“RAP empowers passengers to have the strength to speak up if they’re in a car where the driver or other passengers are exhibiting dangerous behaviour. No one should be a passenger if a car if they feel unsafe. We provide students with valuable advice on how to get out of a dangerous situation.”

Joining MFS firefighters will be guest presenter and road crash survivor Eli Murn who will share his personal experience of road trauma. Eli was a promising sportsman who now lives with an acquired brain injury due to a road crash incident.

Eli now focusses on educating young drivers through the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP). His message is that just one risk on the road can have major consequences. “I’d like to make a *universe of positive out of my personal negative*,” he said.

The award winning MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) has reached more than 130,000 licence aged drivers and road users across South Australia since it began in 2005. The program is funded by the State Government and is generously supported by sponsors the RAA, Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

WHAT: Firefighters empower Yorke Peninsula students to beat road fatigue at MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentation (session details below)

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Tues, 25 October 2016	11 am	Minlaton District School (Ardrossan Area School, Maitland Area School and Yorketown Area School students also attending)	100 minutes

Media are welcome to attend the RAP session listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS RAP Coordinator Brad Ryan 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