

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Be road safe this summer

Friday, 11 December 2020

As the school term officially ends today, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) is reminding young people to be responsible on the roads these summer holidays.

MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) Coordinator Josh Byerlee said while presentations at South Australian schools have wrapped up for the year, the road safety message is still highly relevant.

“Many high school students are excited about getting their provisional (P) licence and may be driving with their friends. It is important to not be a risk-taker whether you’re a passenger or behind the wheel.”

“As a responsible passenger, remember to wear your seatbelt, don’t distract the driver, and speak up if the driver or passengers are doing any risk-taking behaviour – whether that person is a friend or a family member.”

“The last thing anyone wants this festive season is to receive a call that their loved ones have been involved in a crash,” MFS RAP Coordinator Byerlee said.

This year, 10 people aged 16 to 19 years old have sadly died in crashes on SA roads.

While road deaths and serious injuries of young people have dropped in the last decade, RAP Coordinator Josh Byerlee said one is still one too many.

“We’re glad to see most young people have been doing the right thing on the road. As a firefighter, it is always devastating to respond to a fatal road crash, especially when a young person is involved.”

“Remember: you get to choose the risk, you don’t get to choose the consequences.”

RAP guest presenter Lachlan (Locky) Miller wants young people to know the devastating consequences and lasting injuries he faced after crashing his car on a regional road in 2013.

The then 22-year-old was in a coma for 38 days, suffered a broken spine and a brain injury that affects his memory.

“I had just completed an apprenticeship and played in a rugby union grand final – but the crash changed my life from that day and continues to, 8 years later,” Mr Miller said.

“The crash not only affected me but also my family and loved ones.”

The MFS RAP, a finalist in the Community Achievement Award and Australian Road Safety Award for a number of years, reaches up to 85% of secondary school students across SA each year.

The program is generously supported by our partners THINK! Road Safety, SA Power Networks, RAA, and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

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

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