

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Road Awareness Program visits Whyalla

Monday, 25 March 2012

This week, the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) will visit high schools in **Whyalla** to educate licence aged drivers.

Co-presenting the program will be a crash survivor who has personal experience with road trauma.

They'll share their story with students from two **Whyalla high schools**, with the assistance of Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Station Officer, Chas Thomas. Together, they will encourage local students to make better choices on the roads.

Station Officer Thomas will provide the students with the perspective of a firefighter who has more than 20 years of experience in extricating injured and deceased people from crashes.

"RAP teaches the students that while they can choose to take a risk, they cannot choose its consequences. The program is graphic, hard-hitting and emotional, yet leaves the students feeling empowered about their choices on the road and positive about looking after their mates," Station Officer Thomas said.

RAP has received national praise after being delivered to the nation's future football and cricketing greats at the AFL Players' Association's and Australian Cricketers' Association's induction camps at the MCG in Melbourne.

The program's reach to Year 11 students across the state has increased. A State Government funding boost allowed the MFS to appoint a second RAP presenter (firefighter), meaning more schools and students benefit from the program in city and **regional** areas.

WHAT: **Whyalla students 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
Mon, 25 March	9.00 am	Whyalla Eyre High School	90 minutes
Mon, 25 March	1.45 pm	Whyalla Samaritan College	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, Chas Thomas will be available for interview.

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

To contact RAP Coordinator, Chas Thomas directly, phone 0409 043 067

The MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) targets licence aged drivers and is delivered to Year 11 high schools students across city and regional South Australia each year.

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