



# Media Release

## SA Metropolitan Fire Service

### “One is too many” - Motorcycle statistics dishearten MFS Firefighters Friday, 3 March 2021

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee implores students to make positive choices on our roads to avoid becoming another statistic, saying “one death on our roads is one too many”.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee will be joined by road crash survivor Yudhi Mohan-Ram who was T-boned whilst on his motorbike, leaving him in a coma for 46 days with a 10% chance of survival.

The pair are travelling to the Eyre Peninsula as part of the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP).

RAP focuses on the role of all road users, encouraging and empowering students to speak up against selfish behaviour. This year’s program will have a spotlight on motorcycles due to the current concerning statistics.

Since January 2021, there have been 18 fatalities on South Australian roads. Motorbikes represent 3.6% of all vehicles on our roads<sup>1</sup> but currently account for approximately 28% of deaths.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee said, “Last year there were 21 motorcycle related deaths<sup>2</sup> on South Australian roads; we do not want a repeat of this for 2021. One death is one too many.

“We want everyone to be aware of the risks involved with being a road user and to make informed choices,” MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee said.

An integral feature of RAP includes emotional presentations from road crash survivors who implore the students to learn from their experience.

Yudhi Mohan-Ram says, “For every fatality, there are many people like me who survive with serious injuries. My crash left me in a coma with a bruised heart, broken bones throughout my whole body and reduced lung capacity”.

Yudhi’s injuries prevent him from working full time so he instead spends his time volunteering. He is determined to focus on educating young drivers through the MFS RAP. His presentation highlights that taking just one risk on the road can have major consequences.

The program is funded by the State Government and is generously supported by sponsors the RAA, Think! Road Safety, the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity and SA Power Networks (SAPN).

<sup>1</sup> [https://dpti.sa.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/247329/Motorcycle\\_Crash\\_Fact\\_Sheet.pdf](https://dpti.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/247329/Motorcycle_Crash_Fact_Sheet.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://dpti.sa.gov.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0009/763128/2020\\_Road\\_live\\_lost\\_and\\_serious\\_injuries\\_-\\_South\\_Australia.pdf](https://dpti.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/763128/2020_Road_live_lost_and_serious_injuries_-_South_Australia.pdf)

For media enquiries please telephone the MFS Media Line on (08) 8204 3770

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**WHAT:** MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations (session details below)

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Tuesday, 9 March 2021	12:30	Cleve Area School	90 minutes
Wednesday, 10 March 2021	8:50	Port Lincoln High School	90 minutes
Wednesday, 10 March 2021	13:40	St Joseph's School	90 minutes
Thursday, 11 March 2021	8:45	Navigator College	90 minutes
Friday, 12 March 2021	11.00	Tumby Bay Area School	90 minutes

**Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above** for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee and road crash survivor, Yudhi Mohan-Ram will be available for interview.

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