

# media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



## MFS continues to empower generational change in young drivers during 2016

Friday, 5 February 2016

As Kym Inglis left for work one morning in January 2010 he kissed his wife and two daughters' goodbye. Kym's wife, Melania, their daughters Claudia and Logan and a friend of Claudia's, Georgie were heading out for a 'girls day out'. On a sweeping bend at Williamstown the car spun out of control and collided with an oncoming four wheel drive. Tragically all in the vehicle died.

For this husband and father, the Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations to South Australian secondary school students are always special. Kym will share his story with students at Cabra College, Cumberland Park in an effort to empower them to continue to drive the generational change seen since the MFS RAP first started in 2005. A committed road safety advocate, Kym will join the MFS on **Monday, 15 February 2016** in delivering the **first** Road Awareness Program to South Australian secondary school students for 2016.

"To lose my beautiful wife of 20 years and our two gorgeous daughters was totally devastating. I'll be urging students – who are about to start their school year - to take extra care and look after themselves and their mates on the roads. It's important to me that something positive comes from this tragic event. Hopefully my story has a positive impact on the students and the way they use our roads," Mr Inglis said.

MFS RAP Coordinator, Station Officer Chas Thomas, a firefighter with extensive experience in responding to road crashes, said firefighters find summer a difficult time – especially if they have to respond to road crashes so close to Christmas and the New Year.

"Last summer, 37 people died in crashes on South Australian roads in three months. Firefighters don't want to respond to these incidents, and families don't want to lose loved ones."

"While zero fatalities are our goal, firefighters are seeing positive signs of change," said Station Officer Thomas.

With the generous support of sponsors, the Royal Automobile Association (RAA), Adelaide BMW, the Motor Accident Commission (MAC) and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) a team of firefighters and road crash survivors will spend the year traveling the state to deliver the graphic, hard-hitting road safety program to licence aged drivers.

"The road safety message appears to be getting through to young people. In 2010, South Australia tragically lost 19 young people in the 16-19 age group to road crash, compared with seven young people in 2015. Over the last seven years statistics in that age group have decreased, this includes fatalities and serious injuries," he said.

"We believe our young road users are doing a great job in reducing road trauma and we want to inspire and motivate all that see RAP to be responsible road users. The MFS, supported by their sponsors, will begin the 2016 school year determined to educate new drivers across the state," MFS Station Officer Chas Thomas said.

RAP teaches students that while they can choose to take a risk, they cannot choose its consequences. Students leave the program feeling confronted by the reality of road trauma, but empowered to make positive generational change on the road.

Kym Inglis said, "Sadly there is nothing I can do to alter the loss of my family but through the MFS RAP I can use my experience to help change others attitudes towards driving".

**WHAT: Young drivers targeted - First MFS Road Awareness Program for 2016**

**WHEN: Monday, 15 February at 1.30 pm. (100 minute presentation begins at 1.30 pm.)**

**WHERE: Cabra College, 225 Cross Road, Cumberland Park. *Media welcome.***

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

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