

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



“One is too many” - Motorcycle statistics dishearten MFS Firefighters

22 October 2021

As part of the Mid North MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) tour, a former Orroroo Area School student, now MFS Firefighter, will deliver the powerful road safety program in his hometown.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee will be joined by road crash survivor Lachlan Miller who will share his powerful story to regional students in the Mid North.

The pair are travelling to the region 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 focus on motorcycles due to the current concerning statistics.

Since January 2021, there have been 78¹ on South Australian roads. Motorbikes represent 3.6% of all vehicles on our roads¹ but currently account for 20% of deaths.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee said, “Last year there were 21 motorcycle related deaths² on South Australian roads. Sadly, there have been 15 motorcycle fatalities in our state in 2021. One death on our roads is one too many.”

“Growing up in the area means I’m well aware of the issues and dangers that face young people in the region. We are not saying ‘don’t ride motorcycles’, we just 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.

Spending 38 days in a coma and showing little sign of life, Lachlan Miller, a road crash survivor now shares his powerful message to regional secondary school students.

Lachlan Miller says, “The reason I present with RAP and re-live the worst part of my life is to reinforce how choices and risks people make on the road, can have a significant impact on other people’s lives.”

Originally from Darwin, Lockie talks about his life before his crash and then being separated from his friends and family as a result of having to be flown to Adelaide for life saving treatment and recovery.

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

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee’s parents still live and work on their family farm at Orroroo, and no doubt a home visit by Josh will be in order while he’s in the region.

See next page for list of locations and times.

¹ https://www.police.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/362603/Collision-Casualties-To-Midnight-to-Date.pdf

² https://dpti.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0003/82029/Daily_Update.pdf

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

www.mfs.sa.gov.au

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MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations

School	Date	Time
Booleroo Centre District School	Monday 25 October 2021	11 AM
Peterborough High School	Tuesday 26 October 2021	9.10 AM
Gladstone High School	Tuesday 26 October 2021	1 PM
Orroroo Area School	Wednesday 27 October 2021	11 AM
Burra Community School	Thursday 28 October 2021	1.30 P M

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee and Lachlan Miller will be available for interview.

¹ https://www.police.sa.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/362603/Collision-Casualties-To-Midnight-to-Date.pdf

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