



Media Release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service

Country road safety focus for MFS firefighters

Monday, 9 May 2022

The Metropolitan Fire Service's (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP) is visiting **Port Pirie** high schools this week, with a former Orroroo local - now MFS Firefighter - inspiring students.

Former Orroroo student, 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.

At **Port Pirie** this week, MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee will be joined by road crash survivor Eli Murn who had to relearn how to walk, talk, eat and care for himself after crashing at high speed.

The pair are visiting the mid-north 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. Sadly, a high number of country road users feature in serious injury and fatality road crash statistics.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee said, "We want everyone to be aware of the risks involved with being a road user and to make informed choices. One death is one too many".

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

Crash survivor and MFS RAP Guest Presenter, Eli Murn says, "When I first realised the situation I was in, I thought to myself, 'If somebody had seriously spoken to me about the importance of road safety when I was in high school, my life may have taken a very different path'".

Eli lives with ongoing mobility and memory issues associated with his acquired brain injury but is determined to educate young drivers through the MFS RAP. His presentation highlights the possible long-term effects of risk-taking and irresponsible driving, to encourage other road users to make informed choices.

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).

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

| Date | Time | Location | Duration |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|------------|
| Monday, 9 May 2022 | 8:50 AM | Mid North Christian College | 90 minutes |
| Monday, 9 May 2022 | 1:30 PM | John Pirie Secondary School | 90 minutes |
| Tuesday, 10 May 2022 | 8:50 AM | St. Mark's College | 90 minutes |

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee and road crash survivor, Eli Murn will be available for interview.

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

Members of the public should call the MFS Community Engagement Department on (08) 8204 3611 during business hours for further information. Country callers 1300 737 637.