



Media Release

Crash survivor warns “You can choose the risk, you can’t choose the consequence”

06 March 2023

Michael Holbrook and his family’s life was excellent. Until one fateful night his life was shattered as he learnt his eldest son Nick had died in a car crash and would not be coming home.

Michael will join Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) firefighter Leith Wood in delivering the powerful Road Awareness Program (RAP) to high school students in Eyre Peninsula.

MFS Firefighter Leith Wood will share his first-hand experience of the trauma suffered by all parties involved in fatal and non-fatal road crashes, whilst Michael takes students on an emotional journey about how one moment changed his life forever.

Michael’s son Nick was the passenger in a friend’s car when the driver lost control and hit a tree at high speed. Michael talks about the night of Nick’s crash, the visit to the hospital and how their life as a family has been devastating ever since.

Michael said as South Australian students look towards gaining their drivers licence, he hopes that sharing his story will inspire them to make safe decisions on our roads.

MFS Firefighter and RAP Presenter, Leith Wood has responded to many road crashes throughout his career. He says firefighters remain determined to reach not only young drivers, but all road users.

“For every fatality on South Australian roads, roughly nine people are seriously injured. That means losing limbs, serious brain injuries, burns to 60-70% of their body. We see horrific injuries.

“We want everyone to be aware of the risks involved with being a road user and to make informed choices. One life lost on the road is one too many,” said MFS firefighter Leith Wood.

While RAP confronts students with the realities of driving and being road users, it’s also designed to inspire and equip them with a broader understanding of how their choices impact others, and how they can support each other to make better decisions.

RAP is presented to 85 % of high school students across South Australia, and is proudly supported by the South Australian Government, Think! Road Safety, SA Power Networks, RAA and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation.

WHAT: **Students empowered to be better road users at**
MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP) presentations (session details below)

Where	When	Time
Cleve Area School	7 March 2023	11.30
Port Lincoln High School	8 March 2023	08.50
St Joseph’s School	8 March 2023	11.30
Tumby Bay Area School	9 March 2023	09.30
Navigator College	9 March 2023	13.30

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Firefighter, Leith Wood and road crash survivor, Michael Holbrook will be available for interview.

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