

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



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

Thursday, 22 April 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 Samantha Pearce who has an acquired brain injury after the car she was traveling in left the road and rolled several times.

The pair are travelling to the Mid North and Spencer Gulf 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 spotlight on motorcycles due to the current concerning statistics.

Since January 2021, there have been 37 fatalities on South Australian roads. Motorbikes represent 3.6% of all vehicles on our roads¹ but currently account for 21 % of deaths.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee said, “Last year there were 21 motorcycle related deaths² 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.

Samantha Pearce says, “Life is about choices. I’m involved with RAP to encourage people to make the right choice so they don’t go through what my family and I have been through due to the bad decision I made.”

After her crash, Samantha returned to high school to complete year 12. This was a huge effort made all the more difficult due to her experience and injuries. Her presentation highlights the responsibilities of being a responsible passenger and hopes that students will learn from her experience.

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).

¹ https://dpti.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/247329/Motorcycle_Crash_Fact_Sheet.pdf

² https://dpti.sa.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/763128/2020_Road_live_lost_and_serious_injuries_South_Australia.pdf

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

www.mfs.sa.gov.au

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



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

Date	Time	Location	Duration
Tuesday, 27 April 2021	11:40AM	Edward John Eyre High School	90 minutes
Wednesday, 28 April 2021	12:00PM	Leigh Creek Area School	90 minutes
Thursday, 29 April 2021	9:30AM	Port Augusta Secondary School	90 minutes
Thursday, 29 April 2021	1:15PM	Caritas College	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, Samantha Pearce will be available for interview.

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

www.mfs.sa.gov.au