

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



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

Monday, 10 May 2021

St Mark's College old scholar and MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee will return to his high school to commend students and help deliver a powerful road safety message.

MFS Firefighter Josh Byerlee will be joined by road crash survivor Lachlan Miller who was thrown from his car after swerving to miss a mattress which became unsecured from the car in front of him. Lachlan was given a 5% chance of survival and now suffers from an acquired brain injury.

The pair are travelling to Port Pirie 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 41 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 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're 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.

Lachlan Miller says, “The reason I present with RAP and relive 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 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
Tuesday, 11 May 2021	8:50	St Mark's College	90 minutes

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

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

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