

media release

SA Metropolitan Fire Service



Road crash survivor empowers young drivers

Monday, 19 October 2020

Yudhi Mohan-Ram will never forget how his life changed when a P-plater ran a stop sign and hit his motorcycle.

Next week, he will share his recovery journey with high school students in the Limestone Coast as part of the emotionally powerful Road Awareness Program (RAP).

MFS Senior Firefighter Joel Van Eeten said distraction is one of the biggest causes of road trauma and a small action – such as putting your mobile phone away before driving – could potentially save lives.

“As firefighters in a regional area, we see the personal cost of road crash in our community well after the event. If you make bad choices on and around the roads, our faces might be the last you see,” MFS Senior Firefighter Van Eeten said.

“We would like all students to take personal responsibility for their choices and to recognise that the outcomes of those choices can either save lives or completely destroy them.”

One of RAP’s key messages is, ‘You can choose to take a risk, but you can’t choose its consequences’.

MFS Senior Firefighter Ian Borchard said RAP empowers students to speak up if they are in a car where the driver or other passengers exhibit dangerous behaviour.

“Everyone has the right to be safe on our roads,” MFS Senior Firefighter Borchard said.

“During RAP, students will learn that driver fatigue contributes to an estimated 20-30% of regional road fatalities in Australia every year.¹”

Joining MFS firefighters will be guest presenter and road crash survivor Yudhi, who was t-boned by a P-plate driver and was in a coma for 46 days.

“Your bones heal but the emotional scarring never leaves you and is there every day. I do not want another person to go through the pain that I go through and the pain that my family goes through on a daily basis,” Yudhi said.

The MFS RAP, a finalist in the Community Achievement Award and Australian Road Safety Award for a number of years, reaches up to 85% of secondary school students across SA each year.

The program is generously supported by our partners THINK! Road Safety, SA Power Networks, RAA, and the Australian Professional Firefighters Foundation (APFF) charity.

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

Date	Time	Location	Speakers
Tuesday, 27 October 2020	1.25 PM	Keith Area School	Ian Borchard, Joel Van Eeten and Yudhi Mohan-Ram
Wednesday, 28 October 2020	11.40 AM	Bordertown High School	Ian Borchard, Joel Van Eeten and Yudhi Mohan-Ram
Thursday, 29 October 2020	9.00 AM	Naracoorte High School	Ian Borchard, Joel Van Eeten and Yudhi Mohan-Ram
Tuesday, 3 November 2020	11.40 AM	Mount Gambier High School	Ian Borchard, Joel Van Eeten and Yudhi Mohan-Ram

Media are welcome to attend the RAP sessions listed above for filming, photograph and interview opportunities. MFS Senior Firefighters Ian Borchard and Joel Van Eeten as well as road crash survivor Yudhi Mohan-Ram will be available for interview.

¹ <https://www.roadsafety.gov.au/action-plan/2018-2020/fatigue>

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