



METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE **RAP** ROAD AWARENESS PROGRAM

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

Statistics show that road crashes are one of the major causes of death and serious injury for 16-24 years olds in South Australia.

Through the South Australia Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) Road Awareness Program (RAP), we can work towards keeping our students safe on the roads with an honest and straightforward concentration and common sense message.

A firefighter from the MFS will be visiting your school to speak with students about:

- good attitudes, smart decision making and safe behaviours
- the dangers of excessive speeds, distractions and driving under the influence
- being a responsible passenger and pedestrian
- becoming a responsible driver
- first-hand experience of the trauma suffered by all parties involved in both fatal and non-fatal road crashes

Firefighters also address the lasting trauma from injuries and fatalities, including the ongoing impacts of loss and disability for victims and families. A central element of the program is a talk by a real life road crash survivor who will implore students to learn from his or her mistakes. We may also select several students to take part in a recreated scenario where they have caused or been directly involved in a road crash. This gives students the opportunity to explore the emotional impact of their actions and confront how the aftermath would affect their life plans.

The program is specifically designed to give students a hard-hitting, realistic insight into road trauma. Consequently, the presentation includes video footage and photographs of real crashes with victims. The video footage is graphic, but has been edited to ensure suitability for Year 11 students. It is not recommended for students under the age of 15 years. Some material may be upsetting, particularly for those who have personal experience of road trauma. Students are warned before being exposed to graphic footage and will be monitored by staff. Individual students will be excused at any point if they become distressed. Firefighters will speak with distressed students immediately following the program and encourage them to discuss their anxiety.

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Past students who've experienced the program describe it as "confronting" and "hard-hitting". Many report that it has an enormous positive impact, not only in their approach to road use, but in their attitude as responsible and selfless members of society. We believe that after completing RAP, students are equipped with a broader understanding of how their choices impact others, and how they can support each other to make better decisions.

Please discuss this program with your child and return the attached Opt-out Form if you **do not** wish your child to attend. **If you are happy for your child to attend, you do not need to do anything.**

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact your school or our coordinators at the MFS on 08 8204 3611.



South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
Road Awareness Program

Please complete this form if you **DO NOT** wish for your child to attend the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service Road Awareness Program. **If you are happy for your child to attend, you do not need to complete this form**

I DO NOT consent to my child attending the South Australia Metropolitan Fire Service Road Awareness Program.

Student name: _____

Parent/Caregiver Signature: _____

Date: _____

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