Road Safety Education Program for Senior Schools

**Aim**

The overall aim of the Road Safety Education (Rescue Ed) Program is to reduce the frequency and severity of the tragedy and trauma caused by motor vehicle accidents among 17 - 25 year olds.

Rescue Ed aims to harness positive perceptions of firefighters as rescuers with 'street credibility' to talk to young people about their safety on the road. The emphasis is on firefighters sharing their first hand experiences of the often tragic consequences of road accidents, and thus guiding young people to reflect on the causes and consequences of such accidents.

**Target Audience**

Students 15 - 17 years of age who over the next few years will be in a position to gain their motor vehicle drivers licence within NSW.

**Young Adult Motor Vehicle Accident Research**

Research into the NSW Road and Traffic Authority (RTA) statistics indicate that:

- Although in the five years to 2005 there has been a general decline in the number of drivers involved in fatal car accidents, people in the 17-25 year age group continue to be overrepresented;
- Motor vehicle accidents are the highest cause of major injury to young adults;
- People under 26 comprise only 15% of drivers yet are involved in 36% of all road fatalities;
- Young, primarily male drivers, are involved in 26% of fatal crashes and 28% of all motor vehicle accidents; and
- A 17-year-old driver with a P1 licence is approximately four times more likely to be involved in a fatal crash than a driver aged 26 or older.

**Objectives**

1. To promote discussion amongst young adults about attitudes, behaviours and road knowledge that can contribute to road accidents.
2. To encourage young adults to reflect on the consequences of accidents (including the physical, social, emotional and financial consequences).
3. To enhance school based driver education teaching and learning programs.
To complement existing NSW Roads and Traffic Authority road safety education curriculum resources.

**Rescue Ed Program**

The NSW Fire Brigades Rescue Ed presentation is divided into 4 activities. The total time allocated to the entire presentation is 1 hour 50 minutes.

The activities are designed to complement the school's existing PDHPE program for Stage 5 students. A member of the NSW Fire Brigades will present the activities with support from the classroom teacher.

- **Activity 1** – Rescue Extrication Demonstration which is a practical demonstration delivered by the local fire station simulating the rescue of a person from a motor vehicle;
- **Activity 2** – DVD Case Study (Tim’s Story) involving the viewing of a DVD exploring the factors that may lead to a road accident and the resultant consequences;
- **Activity 3** – Discussion of causes and consequences and the issues faced by firefighters who attend the scene of a road accident;
- **Activity 4** – Risk Reduction “What Could You Do? Discussion of being involved in a road traffic incident and identifying strategies to reduce risk.

**Project Partners**

Rescue Ed's design is based on the Queensland Fire and Rescue Authority’s (QFRS) Road Accident Awareness Program (RAAP). In the early years after RAPP's introduction across Queensland, there was an approximate 30% total drop in road accident injuries and deaths to 17 - 25 year olds per year.

Certainly whilst some of this drop can be attributed towards the building of safer roads, safer cars and broader road safety campaigns like reducing drink driving and speeding, it has been argued by the QFRS that a proportion of the drop was directly related to the delivery of RAAP by firefighters.

For more information contact your nearest fire station


or visit