



Media Release

Leadership Under Fire experience for Operation Flinders Young Mentors

12 October 2024

This weekend, graduates of the Operation Flinders program will embark on an extraordinary journey of leadership and resilience at the Leadership Under Fire event, held in partnership with the South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS). Taking place at the Adelaide Fire Station, this initiative aims to provide participants with hands on experience in firefighting and emergency services.

Minister for Emergency Services, Hon. Dan Cregan MP, said, "This program provides invaluable hands-on experience to young people in a supportive environment, enabling them to build their confidence and leadership skills.

Young people aged 14-18 from challenging backgrounds, often lacking role models and direction, will take part in a series of physically challenging activities, including abseiling from the fire tower, crawling through tunnels, and ascending 37.5 metres in an aerial fire truck. They will also learn essential firefighting techniques using hoses and participate in the MFS Road Awareness Program (RAP), which focuses on road safety.

"Seeing how our frontline personnel serve their communities will also help inspire participants to consider a career in emergency services," added Minister Cregan.

CEO Operation Flinders Foundation, David Wark, said "We are thrilled to be partnered with the MFS, who have been a vital part of the Foundation's 33-year history. Knowing we have the support of the services is vital for the functioning of our programs."

"Many of the young people taking part in Leadership Under Fire don't have positive role models in their lives. Seeing the teamwork and enthusiasm of the MFS will be inspiring," said CEO, David Wark.

MFS Acting Chief Officer, Eero Haatainen, stated, "Through the Leadership Under Fire program, we aim to empower young leaders to discover their potential and develop essential life skills. Our partnership with Operation Flinders has proven invaluable in guiding these participants as they learn to navigate challenges and embrace their roles as community advocates."

This weekend represents a unique opportunity for participants to connect with positive role models in emergency services. The confidence and knowledge they gain will have a lasting impact on their personal and professional lives.

Join us as we celebrate the potential of these remarkable young individuals and their journey toward leadership.

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