



Members of the media are welcome to re-phrase the information contained in this media release, but the essential information at time of distribution is correct and should not be altered.

DATE Wednesday 28 July 2010

TIME 1.30pm

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## Kids, Cops and Karts

South Australia Police will be holding the official launch of a crime prevention programme Kids, Cops and Karts at 11am on Thursday 29 July. The launch will be held at Mount Young Raceway, Lincoln Highway, Whyalla. Attendees will include Assistant Commissioner Graeme Barton, Chief Inspector Alby Quinn, Inspector Scott Denny, Whyalla Mayor Mr Jim Pollock and the Honourable Mrs Lyn Breuer MP, Member for Giles.

Kids, Cops and Karts is a crime prevention initiative aimed at reducing the incidence of youth offending. The need for the programme was identified after a number of youths were arrested or reported by police following a spate of motor vehicle thefts in Whyalla in early 2009. The go-karting programme was designed to engage youths who have committed or are at risk of committing offences.

Whyalla Police are working with TAFE SA Whyalla Campus, Eyre Futures Whyalla, Community Health, Edward John Eyre High School the Australian Karting Association (SA), the Whyalla Kart Club Inc and the Whyalla community to run the go-karting programmes. Sponsorship has been gratefully received from the Department of Sports and Recreation, One Steel, Whyalla City Council, Lions and Wendy's Ice cream.

The programme aims to build positive relationships between the youths and police and to promote team work, self respect and discipline. The youths are rewarded for their good behaviour, rather than for offending. The youths participate in classroom activities as well as track time at the Kart Track located at Mount Young Raceway. Each programme is tailored to the needs of that group of youths, depending on their personal situations or offending behaviour. So far,

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programmes have covered such topics as the Fatal Five, drink and drug driving, sexual offences, the juvenile justice system and anti-social behaviour.

Six youths participated in the first programme which commenced in November 2009. Since then, four programmes have been delivered involving 23 youths with varied offending behaviour. Of these 23, 14 youths had been involved in the juvenile justice system in the three months prior to entering the programme. To date, only three of these youths have re-offended within three months of completing the programme.

*Members of the media are invited to attend the launch at 11am on Thursday 29 July at Mount Young Raceway, Lincoln Highway, Whyalla. Chief Inspector Alby Quinn, Officer in Charge of Strategic Projects and Innovation Section, will be addressing the media. There will be opportunities for the media to film programme participants driving karts on the track and speak to people involved in the programme.*



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