

Date: 19th July 2021

To: All Members, Club Administrators, First Aid Officers, Club Captains

From: Brad O'Leary

Subject: Confirmed Changes to SLSNZ First Aid Training

Tēnā koe

Background

In February 2020 SLSNZ initiated a review of our First Aid Training Framework, primarily in response to reviews that were being undertaken by Skills.Org on the Unit Standards that formed the basis of the courses prescribed for SLSNZ First Aid Awards. Skills.org is the Standard Setting Body (SSB) who develop, review and approve First Aid Unit Standards for inclusion on the National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

A highly qualified and experienced First Aid Review Group (FRG) was formed at that time to represent the SLSNZ membership and consider the entirety of SLSNZ first aid training. After 15 months of review a new model was developed. The proposed changes to the framework were sent out for consultation on the 10th May, a copy of which is included in Appendix 2 for reference.

The key components of the proposed changes were:

- To reduce the number of First Aid Award levels to two
- Open up the range of providers able to deliver first aid training for SLSNZ members
- That critical content specific to a surf context could be delivered via an online module, and assessed face to face
- The above 'Surf First Aid module' could be assessed by members suitably qualified and endorsed to do so
- To recognise first aid qualifications members may bring into the organisation from other settings, and to make the surf first aid awards transportable outside of surf lifesaving.
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Key Feedback themes

Feedback	Status
Potentially insufficient Surf First Aid Module (SFA-M) Assessors available. Mitigate by allowing wider range of assessor credentials.	Adopted
Existing 'approved providers' should continue to be able to deliver approved content to ensure sufficient training options are available.	Adopted
Unclear transition process of current awards to new framework. Suggest specific communication to detail this process.	Adopted

In it for life



FINANCIAL SERVICES



Unclear status of existing 'Level 2' award. Suggest specific communication to clarify this.	Adopted
Award names potentially confusing. Suggest award name to avoid confusion with other emergency service 'First Responder' awards.	Adopted To be recorded as Surf First Aid (as proposed) and; Advanced Surf First Aid
Technical challenges enrolling online, or understanding the online e-learning processes. Suggest clear communication to support members with this.	Adopted
Two part process of achieving 'Surf First Aid' is a barrier for completion. Suggest alternative method of completion.	Not adopted. No viable alternative to ensure surf content is covered. Allowing existing approved providers to deliver 'full awards' also reduces the number of members who will complete a 2 part process.
Lower entry level of first aid knowledge to make it easier and more accessible for young lifeguards.	Not adopted. One of the primary objectives of the review was to establish a robust standard of first aid for all lifeguards, based on essential first aid skills knowledge.

The feedback shown as 'adopted' from that process has been incorporated in to the 'confirmed' model below. Thank you to the clubs and individual members who made contributions to this phase.

Please note, there is no change being proposed to the basic first aid that is taught as part of the Surf Lifeguard Award, the only changes are to the voluntary higher level qualifications currently referred to as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.

The changes outlined in this memo will be adopted from 31st December 2021.

Confirmed Model

The new model intends to achieve the following high level objectives:

- More consistent level of first aid qualifications for surf lifeguards
- Increased access to First Aid Providers by clubs
- Easier to understand framework
- Transportable qualifications for members

Key elements of the new proposed model include:

- Any first aid provider who has consent to assess the specified Unit Standards from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) will now be able to be used for first aid training. This significantly opens up the range of providers, which has historically been a problem for clubs in more isolated areas where members had to travel to attend courses from the small number of SLSNZ approved providers.
- Existing 'approved providers' (see appendix) will continue to provide 'full awards' under renewed Memorandum of Understanding to ensure consistently high standards of first aid training is available to Surf Lifeguards. This applies to Surf First Aid and Advanced Surf First Aid
- There will only be two levels, as opposed to the current three.
- Members with equivalent or higher qualifications than the prescribed Unit Standards will be able to more easily get recognition of prior learning by completing the Surf First Aid Module.

The new model will be structured as below:

First Aid Level	Content	Delivered by	Currency
Surf First Aid Option 1	<u>Part 1:</u> Content as currently prescribed in Unit Standards 6400, 6401, 6402	Any NZQA approved first aid training provider with consent to assess* the listed Unit Standards	Refreshed every 2 years in line with Skills.org requirements.
	<u>Part 2:</u> Surf First Aid Module	Online SLSNZ Module, face to face assessment by SLSNZ approved assessor	Refreshed online every 2 years. SLSNZ managed. Part 2 must be completed as soon as practical after part 1 is completed. The 2 year currency period will commence from completion of part 1.
Surf First Aid Option 2	Content as currently prescribed in Unit Standards 6400, 6401, 6402; additional SLSNZ prescribed content (same as SFA module)	SLSNZ approved providers (see appendix)	Refreshed every 2 years in line with Skills.org requirements.
Advanced Surf First Aid	Content as currently prescribed in Unit Standard 29321	Any NZQA approved first aid training provider with consent to assess** the listed Unit Standards	Refreshed every 2 years in line with Skills.org requirements

*Consent to assess these Unit Standards can be found via NZQA:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers/index.do?frameworkId=1415815793&unitStandardId=6400>

** Consent to assess these Unit Standards can be found via NZQA:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers/index.do?frameworkId=2802340666&unitStandardId=29321>

The 'Surf First Aid' award has two parts – the first being generic first aid skills and the second being some skills and knowledge specific to the demands of a surf lifeguard. This second part will be called the 'Surf First Aid Module' and will be an internally developed module, with online delivery and face to face assessment by SLSNZ approved regional or club based assessors. The Surf First Aid module has the same content as that which will be prescribed by SLSNZ to approved providers who will be able to deliver the full 'Surf First Aid' course.

What is different to our current framework?

- Now only two levels of First Aid ("Surf First Aid" and "Advanced Surf First Aid") rather than three levels (First Aid Level 1, 2, 3)
- Clubs and individual members can use any NZQA approved provider for training
- As part of the 'Surf First Aid' qualification, the 'Surf First Aid Module' will deliver surf lifeguard-specific skills - delivered via online content, assessed face to face
- Surf First Aid Module will be assessed internally by SLSNZ approved assessors (members whom hold relevant qualifications and experience)
- New 'PHEC' Unit Standard 29321 has been adopted as the highest standard in our framework. This is a new standard on NQF, replacing the now expired 14473, 25411, 25412
- Members who hold First Aid Awards or medical qualifications, which are not currently recognised on the SLSNZ framework will be able to gain equivalency by completing the Surf

First Aid Module, as long as their award is considered the same or 'higher' than courses covering Unit Standards 6400, 6401, 6402.

What is the same as our current framework?

- Members will still have the option of completing a "full" First Aid award via approved providers (see appendix). This will be available for both Surf First Aid and Advanced Surf First Aid
- Foundation content of the 'Surf First Aid' qualification is still based on the now revised Unit Standards 6400, 6401, 6402
- There is still content specific to Surf Lifeguards which will need to be covered. The new model addresses this via a blended learning approach – online learning followed by a face to face assessment
- Awards will still need refreshing every two years, as this has always been an industry requirement
- First aid courses will still take about the same time to complete ("Surf First Aid" about two days, "Advanced Surf First Aid" about three days), with some variation between providers
- Course bookings will be the same as they have been, which currently varies between regions.

What will the changes mean for me?

- **If you currently hold a SLSNZ recognised First Aid Award (i.e. your award is loaded as current on PAM).**

Your awards will continue to be valid and current until their natural expiry date. As all SLSNZ approved providers are also NZQA approved, you will be able to refresh your existing awards with any provider. You will provide your new certificate to SLSNZ to have uploaded to PAM.

The Surf First Aid Module will be compulsory for members gaining the Surf First Aid Award (US 6400, 6401, 6402) for the first time. This module will need to be refreshed online every 2 years.

- **If you hold a current First Aid Level 2 Award**

This award will no longer be valid from the next renewal date. It is therefore advised any member who wishes to remain at a similar level of First Aid to complete a 'Surf First Aid' course via either option, or enrol in a course which covers US29321 to be awarded a 'Advanced Surf First Aid' award. The prerequisites for enrolling in US29321 is to hold (any) first aid certificate. To be eligible for 'Advanced Surf First Aid' you will need to also hold US6400, 6401, 6402.

- **If you have a current SLSNZ recognised First Aid Award due for refreshing within the next 2 years.**

As above, because your awards will remain valid and current, you will enrol to complete a refresher as normal. However, under the new model you will have a wider range of training providers to complete your refresher through.

You will also need to complete the Surf First Aid Module Refresher within the same time period as your First Aid refresher course.

- **If you intend completing an award or course on the SLSNZ framework, which has first aid as a pre-requisite (for example Patrol Captain has First Aid level 1 as a pre-requisite).**

For courses currently with "First Aid Level 1 (FA L1)" as a pre-requisite: Members who hold a current FA L1 OR a (new) "Surf First Aid" award will be eligible.

For courses currently with "First Aid level 2" as a pre-requisite: Members who hold a current FA L2 OR a (new) "Surf First Aid" award will be eligible.

For courses currently with "First Aid level 3" as a pre-requisite: Members who hold a current FA L3 OR a (new) "Advanced Surf First Aid" award will be eligible.

From 2023, all pre-requisites will convert to be either "Surf First Aid" or "Advanced Surf First Aid"

- **If you wish to be a Surf First Aid Module Assessor.**

Expressions of interest will be called for at the end of this consultation period. SLSNZ will be looking to appoint assessors who hold the following qualifications, or equivalents, as a minimum:

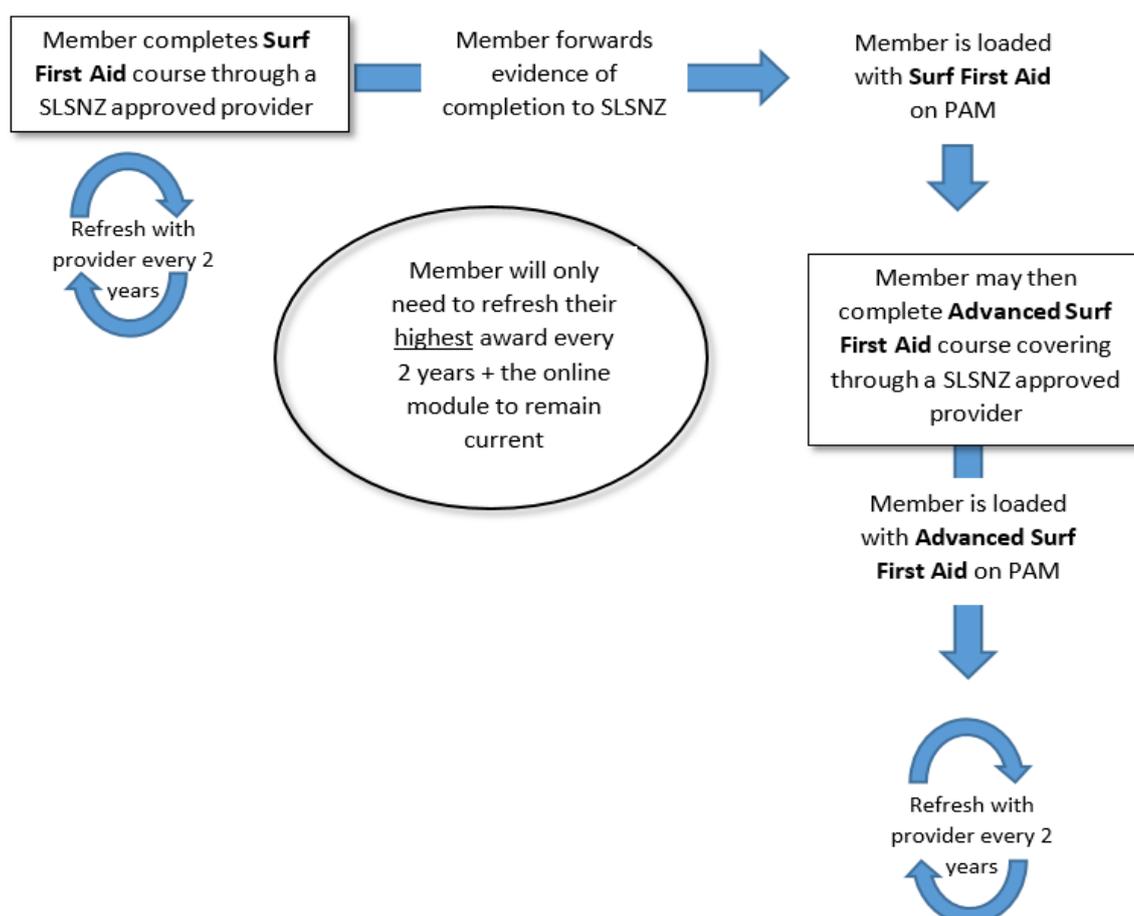
- SLSNZ Examiner (SLA, IRB or RWC) or;
 - o SLSNZ Instructor (SLA or RWC) with minimum 2 years' experience or;
 - o Evidence of holding Unit Standard 4098, "Use standards to assess candidate performance" or;
 - o Evidence to demonstrate equivalent or higher teaching experience in a relevant setting
- Surf First Aid Module (or equivalent)
- Unit Standard 29321 (or equivalent); 'old FA L3'

Potential assessors who meet the criteria above would then be assessed via a short interview by a suitably qualified person (as determined by SLSNZ). Assessors will be loaded as "Surf First Aid Module Assessor" on PAM and will be required to remain current.

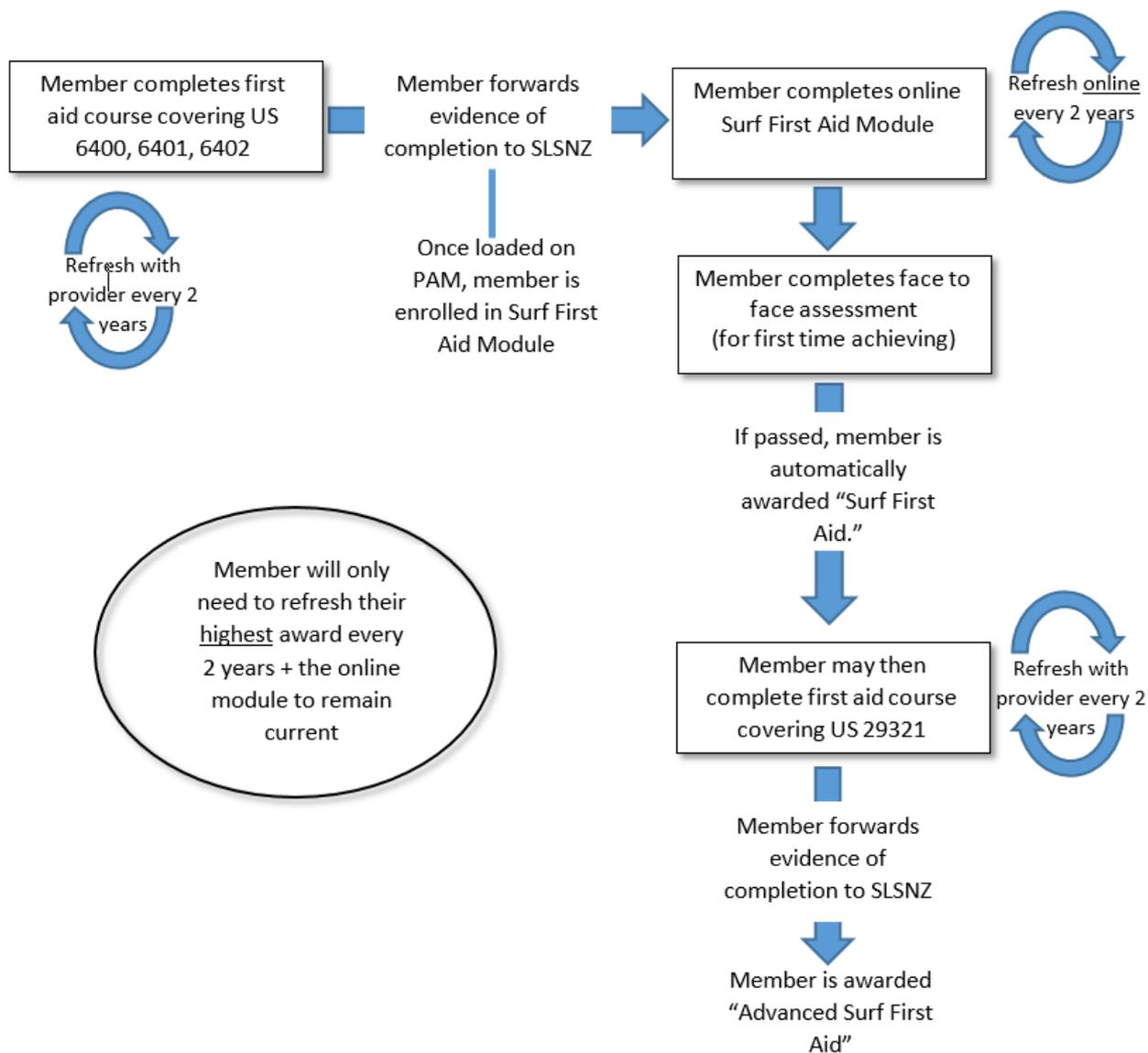
- **If you currently hold or wish to hold the Pain Relief Module qualification.**

No changes are being proposed for the Pain Relief Module. This will remain as a standalone qualification.

What does the process look like? Option 1 – via SLSNZ approved provider



Option 2 – via new pathway



What happens from here?

Members will be able to gain the new Surf First Aid Awards from December 31, 2021.

Expressions of interest will be called for Surf First Aid Module Assessors, promoted via an Operations Circular, Member News and the vacancies section on the SLSNZ website. This will be posted from 19th July 2021

Renewed Memorandums of Understanding to be signed by current and new approved providers (see appendix).

Surf First Aid module development is already underway, being lead by the National Education Manager and supported by a subject matter expert group with clinical education, first aid and emergency medicine experience.

If anyone has questions or requires further clarification, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

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Appendix 1 – List of currently approved and pending SLSNZ approved first aid training providers

Currently approved

Pacific Medicare

ProMed

City First Aid

Medi-Train

First Training

Medic First Aid

Triple One Care

Workplace First Aid Training

Links Training

Actions for Survival

Pending approval

Red Cross NZ

Appendix 2 – Original proposal memo from 10th May 2021

Date: 10th May 2021

To: All Members, Club Administrators, First Aid Officers, Club Captains

From: Brad O’Leary

Subject: Proposed changes to SLSNZ First Aid Training – [Yellow Category Consultation](#)

Tēnā koe

Background

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A highly qualified and experienced First Aid Review Group (FRG) was formed at that time to represent the SLSNZ membership and consider the entirety of SLSNZ first aid training. After 15 months of review a new model has been developed and it is proposed that it is adopted for the 2021-22 season.

Please note, there is no change being proposed to the basic first aid that is taught as part of the Surf Lifeguard Award, the only changes are to the voluntary higher level qualifications currently referred to as Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3.

Proposed Model

The new proposed model intends to achieve the following high level objectives:

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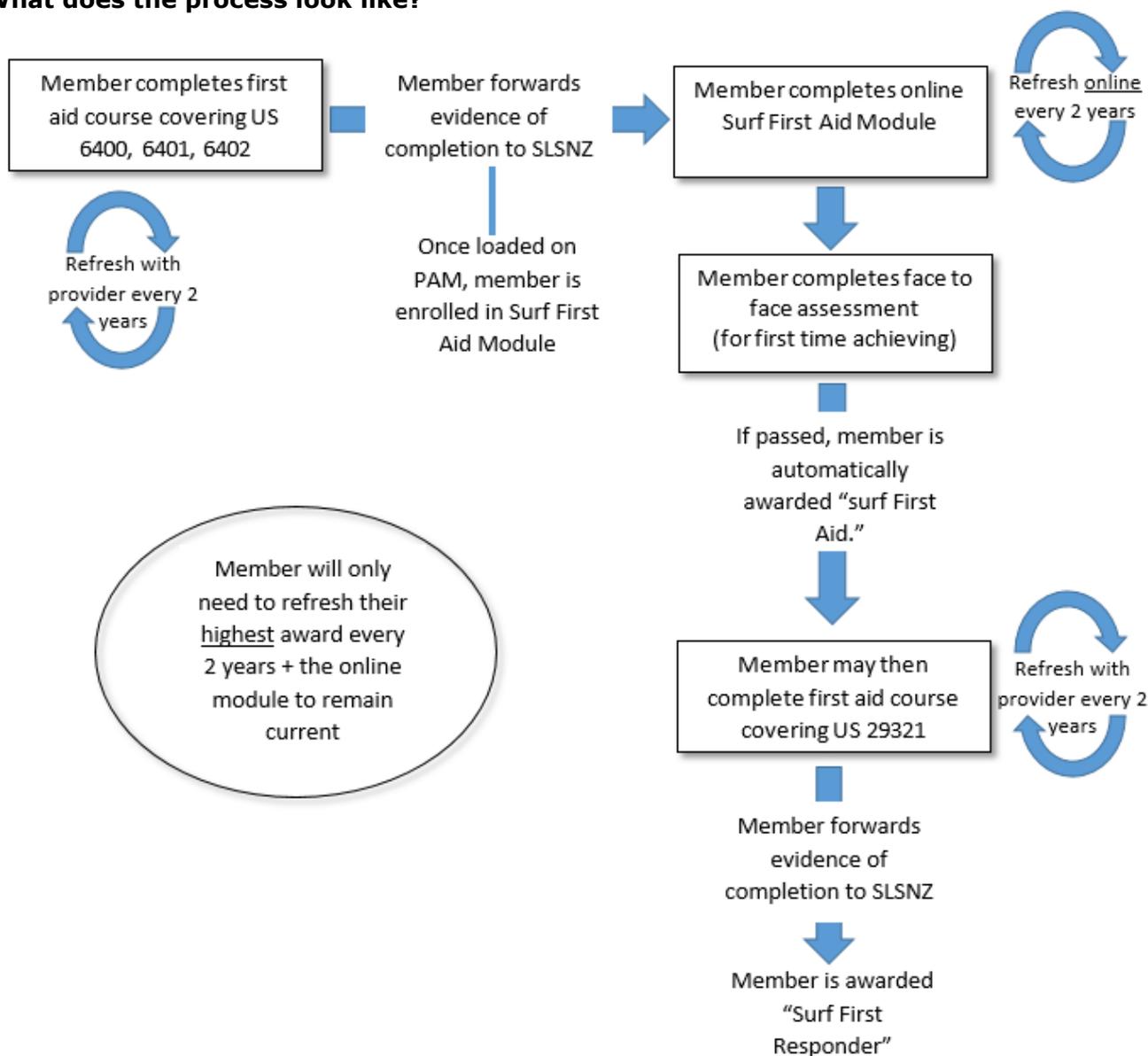
This proposal will be out for consultation for 5 weeks (ending Friday, 11th June). During this consultation period, members are invited to send thoughts and feedback to the National Education Manager (NEM), brad.oleary@surflifesaving.org.nz

Once all feedback has been received, the NEM, in conjunction with the Chief Operations Officer will decide whether this new model will be adopted as presented, updated to incorporate some or all of the feedback received or whether there needs to be any substantive changes made to the proposals and these sent back out for further consultation.

If the new model is adopted, expressions of interest will go out for Surf First Aid Module Assessors on Monday 7th June and the selection process will begin.

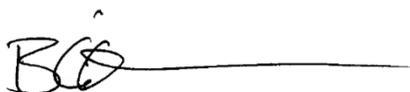
Members will be able to gain the new Surf First Aid Awards from the coming season. A specific date is still to be determined, but it is anticipated this will be before December 31, 2021.

What does the process look like?



If anyone has any questions or feedback, please get in touch.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of the letters 'BO' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brad O'Leary
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