



Search and Rescue Squad Induction

Instructions for SAR Team Leaders

As part of being inducted into a Surf Life Saving SAR Squad, new SAR members are required to complete the two-part induction.

It is also a requirement for all existing SAR members to complete this process.

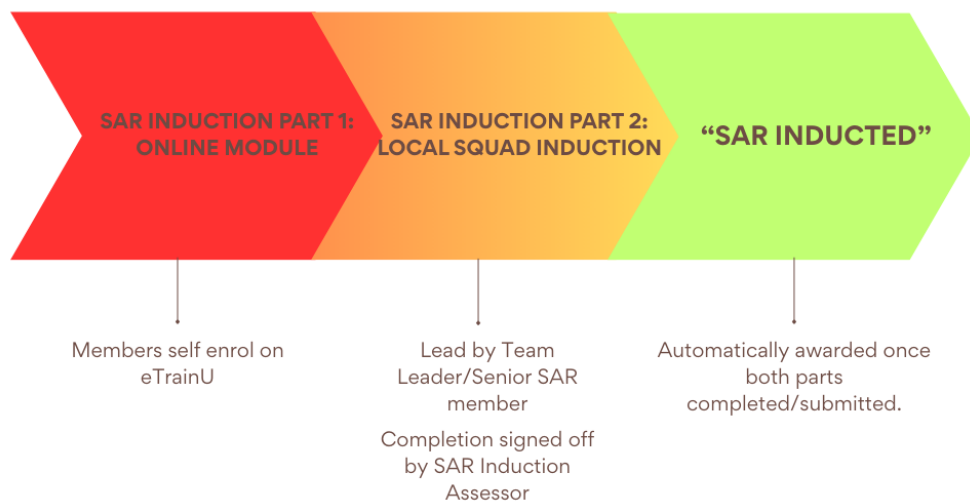
Part 1 is the online SAR Induction Module which can be accessed on the SLSNZ etrainu platform. The module is a nationally consistent training package that will provide members with an overview of how SAR Squads operate.

Part 2 is the Local Squad Induction which is designed to be an in person briefing. This is centred around providing SAR members with knowledge, that is specific to *their* club/area squad.

Both parts need to be completed to be 'SAR Inducted'. Sign off, of the Local Squad Induction which will be done by a 'SAR Induction Assessor' from within each SAR Squad.

Inductions only need to be completed once. SAR members should complete Part 1 online, then Part 2 is designed to be done in person, with the SAR Squad Team Leader, or another designated senior member who can deliver the Local Induction.

SAR Induction Process





To be clear, all SLSNZ SAR Squad members need to complete this induction process, regardless of how long they have been a member of a SAR squad. The purpose of this is to bring all SAR members up to the same, consistent level of understanding.

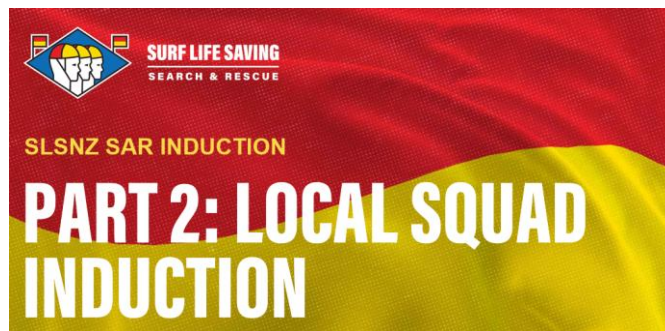
Between January and June 2026, all SAR members will be required to complete this process to meet the SAR Minimum Training Standard by July 1, 2026. Once all current SAR members have gained 'SAR Inducted' status, they will not have to redo this process. There is no yearly induction or refresher.

Any new members joining in the future will have to go through the same induction process.

Note: The SAR Induction Module content is specifically aimed at those who are joining a SAR Squad for the first time.

However, ALL existing SAR members are required to complete this training, to ensure all members across the country have a common understanding of the SLSNZ SAR operating processes. Members only need to do this induction once.

Surf Life Saving New Zealand have provided resources to enable SAR leaders to complete this process with their teams.



The Local Squad Induction PowerPoint is provided for SAR Squad Team Leaders, as a guide for delivering the Local Squad Induction to their SAR members. It is to be used as a template to step through the topics that should be covered as part of a local SAR squad induction.

The PowerPoint has been completed in a longer format than what may be necessary for a squad induction. This is so the presenter can pick which information is pertinent for their squad, and remove what they don't need, rather than having to create additional material.

Not all aspects of this PowerPoint will be relevant to your club or area squad.

Conversely, there may be localised topics not covered within this PowerPoint template, which need to be discussed with your members, as part of the Local Squad Induction.

The slides are written with the intent of being a list of prompts for the presenter, to aid in the delivery of the induction.

Please note that there are helpful presenter notes for most slides. Please enable the 'presenter notes' when viewing/delivering the PowerPoint.



Some squads may already have their own PowerPoint (or other means) to induct new members. If this is the case, then squad leaders can refer to the templated list of topics to cover for local inductions, which is also provided by SLSNZ in an excel spreadsheet.

This can be used as a cross-reference list, to ensure all relevant topics are covered. Again, please note that not all topics listed may be relevant to your SAR Squad, so not all points need to be covered. Presenters should add any additional points relevant to your squad.

Once a new SAR member has completed the induction process and met the minimum training standard requirements, they may be tasked as an 'operational member' or 'support member' if applicable. However, SAR Team Leaders and SLSNZ SAR On Scene Coordinators should be mindful of what they expect of new SAR members.

New SAR members should be mentored by a senior SAR Squad member.

They should be introduced to SAR Operations in a staged approach, giving them the time and support necessary to enable them to learn SAR operations, with a reduced level of pressure and stress.

Ways to do this might include:

- Staying on land, shadowing the SLSNZ SAR On Scene Coordinator for a few SAROPs, before participating on the water.
- Being a crewperson in an IRB, before being an operator.
- Watching a body recovery being completed, before participating in a recovery.

Being competent *and* confident to undertake SAR operations takes time and experience, some of which can only be learnt 'on the job'.

It is the responsibility of the SAR Team Leader to manage the introduction of new SAR members, to ensure they are supported, encouraged and enabled to become competent Surf Life Saving SAR members, over time.

Thank you for your support.

For any questions regarding the SAR Induction process, please contact:

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