



New Zealand Search and Rescue

MOSR1-3

11 March 2009

NZSAR Council

New Zealand Search and Rescue Review, Investigation or Inquiry Policy

1. The New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) Council may, on occasion, wish to establish a review, investigation or inquiry into a Search and Rescue (SAR) matter. These matters may typically (but are not restricted to) be:

- of considerable public importance;
- of concern to the NZSAR Council or one or more of its component organisations;
- in response to an identified need or concern raised by NZSAR Council members;
- in relation to matters of procedure, policy, administration, jurisdiction, finance or operation;
- in response to a complaint; and,
- where a review or inquiry is deemed the most appropriate method to establish the specifics about a matter and make recommendations about appropriate remedial action.

2. The principles that underpin reviews, investigations or inquiries into serious SAR matters include:

- The starting point is to investigate the SAR matter, not the assumption that a person or organisation is at fault.
- The review, investigation or inquiry process must be independent, competent, proportionate and timely.
- Where possible, the focus should be on learning lessons and identification of measures needed to prevent recurrence of the matter, not apportioning blame.

3. The establishment of a review, investigation or inquiry by the NZSAR Council should be endorsed by a majority of its members and recorded in the

minutes of the next available NZSAR Council meeting. The funding of the review, investigation or inquiry will also need to be resolved by the Council.

4. The NZSAR Council is solely responsible for determining the terms of reference for any review, investigation or inquiry it chooses to establish.

5. The establishment of a review, investigation or inquiry by the NZSAR Council does not inhibit or restrict the occurrence any other form of governmental investigation. These may include:

- Commissions of inquiry;
- Statutory inquiries (i.e. CAA, Coroner, Maritime NZ);
- Ministerial inquiries;
- Select Committee inquiries;
- Police Complaints Authority;
- Ombudsman inquiries; and,
- Statutory Commissions.