

**Question on Notice
No. 715
Asked on 12 May 2005**

Mr Rowell asked the Minister for Emergency Services (Mr Cummins)

Question:

With reference to aviation services, search and rescue flights and medical retrievals for each of the last two financial years and for the year to date (reported separately)-

- (1) What is the number of accidents and/or reported incidents that have occurred in each of the above years?
- (2) What was the nature of each of those reported incidents or accidents and who was the service provider involved in each instance?
- (3) In each instance listed in (1) and (2), will he provide details of any harm or damage caused to persons or equipment as a result?

Answer:

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) is Australia's prime agency for the independent investigation of civil aviation accidents, incidents and safety deficiencies.

The ATSB conducts aviation safety investigations in accordance with the provisions of Annex 13 to the *Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention 1944)*, which have been incorporated into Australian law through the *Transport Safety Investigation Act 2003* (TSI Act).

The *TSI Act* contains a scheme for the mandatory reporting of accidents and serious incidents.

The Department's helicopter fleet has not had any incidents as a result of search and rescue flights or medical retrievals during this time period.

The member may be aware however that on 17 October 2003 the Community Helicopter Provider, Central Queensland Helicopter Rescue Service's Bell 407 helicopter crashed into the sea south-east of Cape Hillsborough, which is north of Mackay. This accident resulted in the loss of all three aircrew on board the helicopter and the total destruction of the aircraft.