

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198502513**

Piper PA23-250 "Aztec"

31 January 1985

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198502513
Location: Bankstown NSW
Date: 31 January 1985
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: 0626

| | Fatal | Serious | Minor | None |
|--------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Crew | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Ground | 0 | 0 | 0 | - |
| Passenger | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |

Aircraft Details: Piper PA23-250 "Aztec"

Registration: VH-AVE

Serial Number:

Operation Type: Charter (Passengers and
Cargo)

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Bankstown NSW

Departure Time: N/A

Destination: Widden (35 km SW
Denman) NSW

Approved for Release: April 24th 1986

Circumstances:

The pilot reported that the three gear position indicator lights were green as he commenced the take-off roll. At about 40 knots the gear commenced to retract and the aircraft slid to a halt with all wheels retracted and the position lights indicating that the gear was up and locked. No fault was subsequently found with the landing gear system which might have contributed to the accident. The pilot had not checked the position of the gear selector lever during his pre-flight and pre-start checks. The sequence of events during the attempted take-off was consistent with the selector being in the up position. The gear system includes an anti-retraction valve which prevents inadvertent retraction while the weight of the aircraft is on the mainwheels. When the aircraft had reached about 40 knots, there was evidently sufficient lift being developed to allow the anti-retraction valve to close and the gear to retract.