

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198600132**

**Piper PA31**

**3 March 1986**

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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](http://www.atsb.gov.au).**

**Occurrence Number:** 198600132  
**Location:** Derby WA  
**Date:** 3 March 1986  
**Highest Injury Level:** Nil  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident

**Time:** 1940

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	3	3
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Piper PA31  
**Registration:** VH-WDY  
**Serial Number:**  
**Operation Type:** Aerial Work-Ambulance  
**Damage Level:** Substantial  
**Departure Point:** Derby WA  
**Departure Time:** 1940  
**Destination:** Broome WA

**Approved for Release:** May 13th 1987

**Circumstances:**

The pilot commenced the take-off run and confirmed that full power was selected. At an indicated airspeed of 90 knots, he rotated the aircraft and waited for the performance instruments to indicate that a positive rate of climb and the single engine climb speed had been achieved. The pilot reported that the aircraft did not accelerate beyond an airspeed of 95 knots and a positive rate of climb was not obtained. He stated that he retracted the gear, to avoid having it snag the boundary fence, and then realised that the left engine was losing power and altitude was not being maintained. The pilot then closed the throttles and the aircraft landed in open country beyond the aerodrome boundary. An inspection of the aircraft did not detect any faults in the engines or other aircraft systems that could have contributed to the occurrence. An examination of the propellers indicated that both engines were delivering power at the time the aircraft struck the ground. The cause of this accident remains undetermined.