

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198703465**

Piper PA31

4 March 1987

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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: 198703465
Location: Cape Flattery QLD
Date: 4 March 1987
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

Occurrence Type: Accident

Time: N/K

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Piper PA31
Registration: VH-PNL
Serial Number:
Operation Type: Charter (Passenger)
Damage Level: Substantial
Departure Point: Cooktown QLD
Departure Time: N/K
Destination: Cape Flattery QLD

Approved for Release: July 22nd 1987

Circumstances:

The aircraft was engaged in the transfer of passengers from Cape Flattery to Cooktown. It was observed to overshoot from the first approach and to carry out a low level circuit subsequently landing with the gear retracted. The pilot reported that during the circuit following the missed approach, he was required to adjust the circuit pattern because of heavy rain in the area, and as a consequence flew a tighter than normal circuit. He also stated that during the circuit he was interrupted by radio conversations with another aircraft which was approaching Cape Flattery. An inspection of the aircraft revealed that the gear was in the locked up position and no damage had been caused to the main gear doors. No fault was found with the landing gear system that could have caused it not to extend when correctly selected down. The pilot believed that it was possible that when moving the gear selector lever to the down position he had not moved it fully down. He does not recall checking that the gear down indicator lights illuminated.