

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report  
198903778**

**Fokker F28-4000**

**27 May 1989**

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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:** 198903778  
**Location:** 220 km S Mackay QLD  
**Date:** 27 May 1989  
**Highest Injury Level:** Serious  
**Injuries:**

**Occurrence Type:** Accident  
**Time:** 1145

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	4	4
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	1	0	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

**Aircraft Details:** Fokker F28-4000  
**Registration:** VH-EWH  
**Serial Number:** N/K  
**Operation Type:** Regular Public Transport  
**Damage Level:** Nil  
**Departure Point:** Mackay QLD  
**Departure Time:** 1130  
**Destination:** Brisbane QLD

**Approved for Release:** June 28th 1989

#### **Circumstances:**

Shortly after reaching the cruising level of flight level 310, the aircraft encountered a severe downdraft. The seat belt sign had been on since DEPARTURE. However, one passenger was thrown into the overhead panel and fell back on to the seat arm rest, receiving five broken ribs. No fault was found with the seat belt or its buckle. The reason the passenger was not strapped in at the time of the occurrence could not be determined. Although the aircraft was in cloud at the time, no weather radar returns had been received. Severe turbulence had been forecast for the area.

#### **Significant Factors:**

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The aircraft encountered severe turbulence which had been forecast.
2. For reason(s) which could not be determined, a passenger's seat belt was not secured.
3. The passenger was thrown from her seat and injured as a result of the turbulence.