

Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198100266

Boeing 737-376

21 May 1988

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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: 198100266 **Occurrence Type:** Incident
Location: En route Brisbane QLD - Melbourne VIC
Date: 21 May 1988 **Time:** 1023-1144
Highest Injury Level: Nil
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Details: Boeing 737-376
Registration: VH-TAU
Serial Number: 23486
Operation Type: Regular Public Transport
Damage Level: Nil
Departure Point: Brisbane QLD
Departure Time: 1010
Destination: Melbourne VIC

Approved for Release: 6/09/1988

Circumstances:

Thirteen minutes after departing Brisbane the crew was instructed to "contact Brisbane Control now on 127.2" (the next VHF en route radio frequency). This message was received at 1023 E.S.T. and acknowledged. At 1039 hours, Brisbane Flight Service received a radio check call from the aircraft on HF. However, despite numerous calls from Brisbane, Sydney, and Melbourne Airways Operations units, nothing further was heard from the aircraft on VHF until 1144 hours when the crew contacted Sydney Control requesting transfer instructions to Melbourne. The aircraft's progress was monitored on radar throughout the flight and, as it appeared to behaving normally, no fears were held for its safety. In his report, the Captain stated that both VHF radios had been inadvertently selected to 127.3 MHz instead of 127.2 MHz. Both pilots had heard aircraft communicating on this frequency, which is a Melbourne-Sydney route frequency, and believed communications were normal. Neither pilot could recall transfer instructions being issued, or calling Brisbane Control on frequency transfer. Examination of taped air/ground communications did not reveal any record of the crew having checked-in on frequency 127.3 MHz following transfer, as required by standard procedures.