

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
199703321**

**Cessna Aircraft Company
A150M**

12 October 1997

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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: 199703321 **Occurrence Type:** Accident
Location: Canberra, Aerodrome
State: ACT **Inv Category:** 4
Date: Sunday 12 October 1997
Time: 1634 hours **Time Zone** EST
Highest Injury Level: Minor
Injuries:

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

Aircraft Manufacturer: Cessna Aircraft Company
Aircraft Model: A150M
Aircraft Registration: VH-TCO **Serial Number:** A1500595
Type of Operation: Instructional Solo
Damage to Aircraft: Substantial
Departure Point: Canberra ACT
Departure Time: 1539 EST
Destination: Canberra ACT

Crew Details:

Role	Class of Licence	Hours on	
		Type	Hours Total
Pilot-In-Command	Student	28.6	29

Approved for Release: Tuesday, April 21, 1998

The pilot was conducting circuits on runway 30 in conditions of strong northwesterly winds gusting to 25 knots. During the approach the pilot elected to keep the engine RPM higher than normal to counter the strong winds. During the final stages of the approach to landing, the rate of descent increased significantly and the aircraft experienced some mechanical turbulence. While the pilot concentrated on keeping the wings level, the nose of the aircraft dropped and the aircraft landed heavily on the runway. The nose wheel strut failed, the propeller contacted the ground and the aircraft skidded to a stop on the runway having sustained substantial damage. The pilot then evacuated the aircraft.

The pilot later stated that he was concentrating on the landing and did not consider going around. Skid marks on the runway indicated that the aircraft touched down with some sideways drift which would have put side loads on the landing gear.



A significant factor in this accident is the pilot's continuation of the landing in conditions which exceeded his ability.

