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### CASUALTIES:

The latest official figures show 37 people are dead in Darwin after Cyclone Tracy.

At least 100 people are still missing. Hundreds of people have been injured. Some of the most seriously injured have been flown south in RAAF Hercules, which flew in with medical teams and some emergency supplies.

A massive airlift of RAAF and civil aircraft is bringing in supplies and special personnel, and taking out the injured, elderly, and young children.

Major help will come by sea. The Navy sent HMAS Melbourne from Sydney today. It will arrive on January 1 with a large number of military personnel. They will also bring equipment, including helicopters, medical supplies and building materials.

The HMAS Supply and Stalwart will arrive a day later.

The Government has promised total effort to get Darwin back to normal as quickly as possible.

It will be several days before water and sewerage service are operating. Normal power will not be restored for several weeks but some emergency links will be connected quickly.

Emergency relief services are being co-ordinated by General Stretton, controller of the National Emergency Service in Canberra. He flew into Darwin at 10 am yesterday with the Minister for the NT, Dr Rex Patterson.

The Acting Prime Minister, Dr. Cairns, arrived early this afternoon, and immediately started a tour of Darwin. The Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Snedden, came with him.

An emergency ABC radio service was started early this afternoon, and will broadcast continuous information bulletins. It is operating on the usual ABC Darwin frequency.

This afternoon five small ships from Darwin were still missing. They are the Jenny Wright, the trawlers Bellbird, Bluebird and Floodbird, and the Booya.

### HELP<sup>3/4</sup>:

Relief centres are being established at several centres. They include some schools, and the Casuarina Shopping Centre. (See over).

Details of the centres will be broadcast over the ABC.

### EVACUATION<sup>3/4</sup>

Plans are under way to help women and children to fly south to join relatives and friends.

They are travelling by RAAAF and civil aircraft. Dr. Patterson has said lack of money will not prevent anyone travelling.

People wishing to leave Darwin should register at the airport.

Dr. Patterson has estimated that up to 10,000 people should be flown out under the scheme.



#### ADVICE:

Emergency centres are opening in the Casuarina and Darwin police stations

Both are busy, and should not be visited without reason.

All available information will be broadcast.

#### HEALTH:

Health will become a major problem without precautions

#### BOIL ALL WATER BEFORE DRINKING.

Leave rotting food in bins or bags in the street for collection

All injured people should be taken to the hospital for treatment.

All private doctors and the emergency teams from south are working at the hospital.

#### COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications with the south are being maintained mainly through 'shaky' emergency radio networks

It will be some time before normal telephone and telex links will be available.

In the meantime, the Red Cross is handling inquiries from people in the south wanting news of relatives or friends in Darwin.

Names and details of casualties are being given to the Red Cross as soon as they are available

#### VOLUNTEERS:

Hundreds of people will be needed for collecting rubbish of all kinds. Volunteers can contact the Town Clerk, Mr Abbott, at the City Council depot in Snell Street, or report to the police for directions.

IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO HELP, all authorities ask you to stay off the roads.

#### PETROL<sup>3/4</sup>

Petrol will be difficult to get for some days. Don't use your car for any non-essential travel.

#### VISITORS:

Controls have been placed on people trying to visit Darwin.

Only essential people are being allowed to travel into the city by air or road.

Road blocks have been established on the highway.

Dr. Patterson said the Darwin's population had to be thinned out and the last thing he wanted was people on 'sightseeing tours' adding to the number of mouths to be fed

#### EMERGENCY CENTRES<sup>3/4</sup>

Relief operations are now operating at<sup>3/4</sup>  
Government Offices, block 3, Mitchell Street.  
Karinya Flats, Mitchell Street.  
Darwin Primary School.  
St Mary's School  
Stuart Park Primary School  
Rapid Creek Primary School

Nightcliff High School  
Casuarina High School  
Wagaman Primary School  
Ludmilla Primary School  
Nakara Primary School  
Moiil Primary School  
Alawa Primary School  
Larrakeyah Primary School





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**Emergency issue of Northern Territory News  
Cyclone Tracy edition, Boxing Day 1974**

With Darwin flattened and the NT News unable to publish because of damage to its building and presses, a group of NT News journalists met at a local school. (The Police had urged all residents to congregate at schools so as to centralise distribution of food, clothing and water.)

The Police expressed regret that the NT News was unable to publish, and said that Darwin needed some sort of communication to convey key information, and thus help avoid panic in the community.

The journalists took to the streets to find some means of printing. A printing shop was located; the front had been damaged and allowed entry. A small printing machine was found at the rear, and with one on each corner, the journalists managed to carry it back to the police station where (with the assistance of police) they put together this emergency edition.

After a few copies had been run off, the journalists took them to each school to hand out, also nailing one to a door at each location.

(This information provided by Alan Kohler in November 1998. Alan moved to the East Coast in 1978 and was later editor of the *Financial Review* and *The Age*. At the time of writing he is a freelance business and financial commentator working for the *Financial Review* and ABC Television.)

S Gardiner  
November 1998