



# MEDIA RELEASE

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Immediate Use

## AUSTRALIAN MISSIONARIES RESCUED

Meanwhile AusSAR has coordinated the rescue of five missionaries overnight after the engine broke down on their 15 metre yacht in the Coral Sea about 1480 kms north-east of Brisbane yesterday.

The Bowen, Queensland-based missionaries, sailing from Gladstone to Espiritu Santo near Vanuatu, issued a radio mayday about midday yesterday stating they were in the direct path of Cyclone Gina.

The group, which includes three men, a woman and a child, were picked up by the 47,000 tonne Japanese merchant ship, *Daio Copihue*, at 4.20 AEST this morning in very rough seas. All survivors are in good health and will continue on board the ship to its destination port of Iyomishima in Japan in ten days.

Further information:

David Gray

0418 487 794