



# MEDIA RELEASE

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Immediate Use

## **AUSTRALIAN MISSIONARIES DECLARE EMERGENCY IN CORAL SEA**

A group of missionaries sailing from Gladstone, Queensland to Espiritu Santo near Vanuatu have declared a mayday after the engine on their motor-sailing boat broke down in the Coral Sea about 1480 kms north-east of Brisbane.

The group, which includes three men, a woman and a child, called for help at 12.30pm today. They are in the direct path of Cyclone Gina and the weather in the area is deteriorating rapidly.

The missionaries are not confident they can operate the vessel under sail to avoid Cyclone Gina.

The merchant ship *Daio Copihue*, a 47,000 tonne woodchip carrier has responded to a call for assistance from AusSAR and is expected to arrive at the disabled boat at around 2am (AEST) tomorrow morning.

Further information:

Ben Mitchell

0418 487 794