



INTERIM STATEMENT

AIC 23-2001



Air Niugini Limited

P2-ANT

Fokker 70

Cabin Pressurisation Event In Flight

Port Moresby

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

20 February 2023

About the AIC

The Accident Investigation Commission (AIC) is an independent statutory agency within Papua New Guinea (PNG). The AIC is governed by a Commission and is entirely separate from the judiciary, transport regulators, policy makers and service providers. The AIC's function is to improve safety and public confidence in the aviation mode of transport through excellence in: independent investigation of aviation accidents and other safety occurrences within the aviation system; safety data recording and analysis; and fostering safety awareness, knowledge and action.

The AIC is responsible for investigating accidents and other transport safety matters involving civil aviation in PNG, as well as participating in overseas investigations involving PNG registered aircraft. A primary concern is the safety of commercial transport, with particular regard to fare-paying passenger operations.

The AIC performs its functions in accordance with the provisions of the *PNG Civil Aviation Act 2000 (As Amended)*, and the *Commissions of Inquiry Act 1951*, and in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation*.

The objective of a safety investigation is to identify and reduce safety-related risk. AIC investigations determine and communicate the safety factors related to the transport safety matter being investigated.

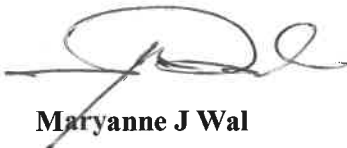
It is not a function of the AIC to apportion blame or determine liability. At the same time, an investigation report must include relevant factual material of sufficient weight to support the analysis and findings. At all times the AIC endeavours to balance the use of material that could imply adverse comment with the need to properly explain what happened, and why it happened, in a fair and unbiased manner.

Interim Statement

In accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.6*, the Accident Investigation Commission has, hereby, released this *Interim Statement* in relation to investigation AIC 23-2001.

Investigation AIC 23-2001 is in relation to a serious incident that occurred on 20 February 2023 at about 16:00 local time, involving a Fokker 70 aircraft, registered P2-ANT, owned and operated by Air Niugini Limited. The aircraft was conducting an air return flight from Mt. Hagen Airport, Western Highlands Province to Jacksons Airport, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, when during the final approach to land at Jacksons, the aircraft experienced severe cabin pressurisation.

At the date of release of this *Interim Statement*, the investigation continues with relevant evidence gathered, the analysis of the evidence nearing completion and the *Draft Final Report* is being finalised. The *Draft Final Report*, when completed, will be disseminated to all involved parties for comments and consultation in accordance with *ICAO Annex 13 Paragraph 6.3*. Comments will be due 60 days from the date of draft dissemination, with consideration given to significant and substantiated comments. The AIC will, thereafter, release the Final Report publicly in accordance with *Annex 13 to the Convention on International Civil Aviation, Paragraph 6.5*.



Maryanne J Wal

Chief Commissioner

20 February 2024