



21 May 2009

Northern NSW Floods;

Mum walks over two hours to help

At 9:20am this morning Ambulance received a call from a Mullumbimby address from a mother who stated her 7 month old son was suffering from a respiratory condition.

Despite numerous attempts by ambulance paramedics, the Westpac Rescue Helicopter and SES to reach the property it was unreachable due to fast flowing flood waters and very high winds.

- > Road ambulances crews were unable to reach the property due to the roads being cut off by flood waters.
- > The SES flood boat was activated but the flood waters were running too swiftly for the flood boat to safely access the property.
- > The Westpac Rescue Helicopter was dispatched and battled atrocious conditions being forced to make an approach to the property from sea. Despite being overhead, due to the 100km winds the crew had to abort the landing.

Ambulance Operations Centre maintained phone contact with mum and was told the child was stable throughout despite persistent coughing and wheezing.

Around 1:30pm the mother decided to walk out through the bush to the first crossing from Mullumbimby taking her two children with her, the 7 month old as well as the baby's 2 year old sibling.

During the walk, the 2 year old had a leech attach itself to the child's eyelid.

The family rendezvoused with ambulance paramedics at 4:16pm. They were provided initial treatment by paramedics and taken by ambulance to Tweed Heads hospital, all three were in a stable condition.

Ambulance staff will recommend that the Mother receives an Ambulance award.

~ends~