



10 October 2009

## **18 patients involved in Flinders Island boat accident.**

Paramedics were called to multiple patients in the water 500m NE off Flinders Island at 0308 this morning. The Ambulance Service of NSW Rescue 26 Helicopter from Wollongong was responded to the incident at 0311.

Water police arrived on scene and pulled one person out of the water. Other water craft in the area also assisted the Water Police in the recovery effort retrieving a total of 3 patients.

Ambulance Service of NSW Special Casualty Access Team Paramedics (SCAT) winched onto Flinders Island where the remaining 15 patients were located. The helicopter was not able to land on the Island due to the unsuitable terrain.

SCAT Paramedics winched the patients off the island to a triage area that had been established at the water police base on foreshore road Port Kembla. There were a total of 8 Ambulances and a supervisor on scene whilst Paramedics treated and transported patients by road to Wollongong Hospital for further assessment.

The patient's injuries were all minor with most of them suffering from Hypothermia, cuts and abrasions. One patient was treated for suspected spinal injuries.

There were a total of 18 patients from the scene 2 of these being deceased. The remaining patients have been discharged from Wollongong Hospital throughout the morning.

For any further information please contact David Morris Paramedic, 0411 282 404.