Cyclone Yasi and the Evacuation of Cairns Base Hospital

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- Qld Health
- Oversight of aeromedical transfer and retrieval – governance, tasking, standards
- Integrated adult/ NPRO
- 20,000 referrals/ year
Disclaimer
Overview

• Cyclone Yasi

• Cairns Base Hospital evacuation

• Issues/ lessons learnt

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Cyclone Yasi

- 500km wide, 100 km eye (35km at landfall)
Major concerns for Cairns Base

• Storm surge
• Cyclone rating of buildings
  – Blocks A + B – exact rating unknown – likely 2-3
  – Block C – ICU/ ED/ Radiology - 4+

• Cairns airport
  – Fuel closing at 6pm
  – ?when airport closing
Cairns Base Evacuation

- Morning 2\textsuperscript{nd} Feb

- Notified at lunchtime + deployed to SHECC

- Priority - 17 SCBU, 11 paeds, 11 adult ICU
  - How, who with, to where
Agencies involved

- Q Health
  - Clinical, admin
- QAS
- ADF – liaison officer
- Aircraft providers
  - Commercial, RFDS, CFQ, Qld Government, ADF
Numbers moved

- 202 inpatients Cairns Base Hospital
  - 17 neonates
  - 11 paeds
    - New referral had to be left in Cairns
  - 11 ICU – 9 ventilated – 4 aircraft
    - 1 arrived during evacuation
  - 9 obstetric on Premier’s jet

- 326 patients total
Lessons learnt

- Networks are vital
- Intelligence is Gold
- Communications
  - Esp. phone charger
- Patient tracking
- Re – coordination/ distractions
- Disasters make intensivists helpful
Questions?

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