

Australia's emergency response to the Bali bombings



Crews unload equipment for transfer to Bali at Darwin RAAF Base, October 2005.

On 1 October 2005, a number of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) exploded at restaurants in Jimbaran Bay and Kuta in Bali. As a result, a large number of tourists and Indonesian nationals were killed or seriously injured. EMA co-ordinated consequence management arrangements under the *Overseas Mass Casualty Plan* and the *Australian Overseas Assistance Plan*

The *Overseas Mass Casualty Plan* is a national plan developed by EMA following the Bali bombings of 2002, which was endorsed by COAG on 3 June 2005. The plan was written specifically for incidents such as the Bali disaster, where a number of Australians were injured overseas and required quick repatriation.

Arrangements in response to this incident, included:

- deployment of New South Wales and Western Australian medical personnel to provide medical support on board Qantas flights

returning to Australia with people who may have been affected by the Bali bombings;

- deployment of an Australian Emergency Response Team, including an EMA officer, to Bali to assist with the consequence management response;
- sending an EMA liaison officer to Darwin to co-ordinate arrangements within Australia of injured people brought back from Bali;
- redistribution of seriously ill patients from Royal Darwin Hospital to John Hunter Hospital in Newcastle;
- deployment of a portable image intensifier from QLD Health to assist Indonesian medical authorities in Bali in the identification and removal of blast shrapnel from victims; and
- co-ordination of the return to Australia of deceased persons.

Daily meetings of the Australian Emergency Management Committee,

the Australian Health Disaster Management Policy Committee, and the National Disaster Recovery Network ensured appropriate actions were co-ordinated and delivered by all relevant Australian Government agencies.

Attorney-General Philip Ruddock thanked agencies involved in Australia's emergency response in the immediate aftermath of the Bali bombings. Mr Ruddock said agencies had responded quickly, decisively and effectively to the tragedy in Bali, demonstrating the high level of co-operation and co-ordination across jurisdictions.