Apologise for the poverty

Premier Cook and Deputy Premier Saffioti should not only hang their heads in shame, they should apologise to the people of WA on still giving priority to things that do nothing to help the 456,123 West Aussies who are living in poverty ("WA's poverty shame", TST, Oct 11).

At the end of the article it is stated that the Government has had a bumper surplus this year of $4.1 billion, so why can't it stop wasting money on racetracks, rugby clubs and ferry terminals that are not only not needed, but will put a program that helps people with disability at risk of closing down?

Start doing something to help the homeless — other than the platitudes you come out with on what housing might be built — and help people with the cost of power. Get the program that is meant to solve the problem of the schools without proper air-conditioning and get the hospital built up near Yanchep. Get your act together, put the surplus to good use for the thousands in poverty in WA and maybe a lot of people may get above the poverty line and stay above it.

MARGARET ANNE RYAN
Ballajura