

Act now on King Eddies to help ease the aged-care crisis

1 When King Edward Memorial Hospital closes its doors in 2029 it should be turned into a transitional aged-care facility to help with WA's chronic shortage of aged-care beds. More aged-care beds will free up hospital beds, meaning shorter wait times in emergency departments and less ambulance ramping. But the work has to start now. The Opposition is calling on the State Government to begin the planning work immediately so an important new chapter for this facility can start without delay in 2029.

2 Right now there are more than 360 elderly West Aussies in hospital waiting for appropriate aged-care beds

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while our public hospitals remain under huge pressure. King Eddies is a 220-bed facility which, with some modification, could have a significant impact on the current crisis. We have seen, though, what happens when planning is left too late. Eight years after closure, there's still nothing on the old Princess Margaret Hospital site.

3 If Roger Cook needs any inspiration, he can look across the border. The current women's and children's hospital services in South

Australia are due to move to a new site in 2031. And guess what Premier Peter Malinauskas is doing — yep, the planning work to convert the old facility into a dedicated health and aged-care precinct. Same crisis, same solution. It makes sense.

4 As if the disastrous WA State Budget wasn't bad enough, West Australians are now having to endure Anthony Albanese and Jim Chalmers' catastrophe. The sweeping changes to capital gains tax, negative gearing and the proposed 30 per cent minimum tax on discretionary trusts are cruel and unfair.

5 Ultimately, the Federal Budget is one of broken promises, more taxes, more

debt, lower living standards and fewer homes. It confirms Anthony Albanese as the leader of the highest taxing government in Australia's history. What a legacy.

6 Rita Saffioti's Budget wasn't much better. No government in history has benefited from greater financial windfalls. The Cook Government has enjoyed record royalties, GST revenue, payroll tax and stamp duty receipts. Yet despite all that prosperity, people are worse off. For those in small business they rightly ask again — where is the payroll tax reform?

7 After 10 years it's clear, the Labor Government has had the money, it made the

wrong choices and now West Australians are worse off. Housing remains out of reach. Despite a frantic catch-up effort, the health system is still in crisis. Families are suffering enormous household stress.

8 "A multi-use track" is what the V8 Supercars racetrack at Burswood has been reduced to in the Premier's latest Perth Park social media celebration. No one is fooled, Rog.

9 Vale Neale Daniher. I'm not sure any VFL/AFL player has made as big a contribution away from the field as Neale. Farewell to a legend.

10 Fremantle to win the flag? It's looking better every week.