

## Ripple effect of Rita getting her way

What a great photo of a young boy jumping into the Swan River at Matilda Bay (*News*, 24/12). The absolute joy on his face tells the story.

I hope the memory is firmly etched, as this sort of activity is scheduled to hit the cancellation rubbish bin when Rita Saffioti pushes ahead with her ill-advised ferry terminal. The waters will be denied to the public for safety reasons.

What will it take to make her realise that the service is neither wanted nor warranted?

**Ron Elliott, Palmyra**

### Don't break perfection

Matilda Bay, on a late afternoon on a hot day — just perfect. Please, Rita, take a look and a second thought.

**Vanessa Ord, Nedlands**

### Regions missing out

I am totally amazed at the attitude of the State Government in relation to its spending with rugby teams and a racetrack costing millions.

Regions are being totally neglected. Carnarvon's One Mile Jetty is one major project that could do with some of those dollars.

The planned refurbishment of the jetty will give us only about 200m of this extremely historic icon, which has been a major tourist attraction for our town.

In the year prior to its demolition in a cyclone, the jetty attracted about 120,000 visitors, was a major recreational area for our population, and was historically relevant on a State, national and international basis.

One visitor told me before its demolition: "If the jetty goes, so do I."

And that has been the general story with hundreds of tourists not coming back for long stays in our town over the winter periods.

And yes, I understand that there are other reasons, but loss of the jetty as a wonderful fishing spot is of major



**Making a splash in Matilda Bay.**

concern. The 200m jetty will not take us anywhere near the water due to the mangroves which have developed over the years.

The heritage committee put up a proposal to use local labour and engineers to repair the jetty which would have got the jetty at least to the water, about 800m, but this was rejected and the contract given to an outside company who are going to give us about 200m. Gee thanks.

The locals here are wanting to know what is happening. We need the jetty to be fully restored, probably using different materials for the majority, but it is needed to assist in getting our tourists back.

Please, government, give some thought and assistance to our regions.

Nobody wants the racetrack or a costly rugby team, but thousands of people would love to see the Carnarvon One Mile Jetty back.

**John McCloy, Carnarvon**

### Playing with our lives

All States and Territories have rejected Anthony Albanese's \$20 billion public hospital funding offer to deal with elderly Australians who, because of a massive shortage of beds in aged-care facilities, are stuck in hospital beds (*The Nightly*, 12/12).

Currently, more than 3000 aged-care patients are stranded in public hospitals, which is a 25 per cent increase in three months, and which continues to

grow. The Federal Government, with its entrenched position, has given the States and Territories until February next year to accept their offer. Until then, the hospital situation worsens.

It highlights the complexity of Australia's health system when the Federal, State and Territory governments broadly share responsibility for funding, operating and managing it.

Because of this, one doesn't have to be Einstein to predict that in any negotiations finger-pointing becomes part of the theatre.

As a result, the Federal Government has threatened to withdraw billions in critical funding if its deal is rejected.

Our governments are literally playing with Australian lives by continually passing the buck with our healthcare system and it needs to cease immediately.

**Bruce Strang, Jolimont**

### Stresses of getting care

Hey, doctor, I need my blood pressure checked.

OK, you have a watch on your wrist, I can monitor it online.

If you need assistance you can book an online consultation and access the script on your phone.

If you feel you have a medical problem, don't worry, you can look up your symptoms on the internet.

There are lots of agencies you can access out there for your at-home needs, particularly as you get older — at a cost of course, because unfortunately we have no beds left in hospitals to care for you.

Cop out, cop out.

What about seeing a real person that we can talk to about mental and physical health? Can't get an appointment, can't see a specialist, the hospitals are full.

Is this to be our life? This is Australia — we live in the lucky country. Who said that, because it ain't any more.

**Pam Ruocco, Gosnells**

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