

Broken WA now noticed nationwide

In yet another indictment of our State Labor Government's neglect of our health system The West reports WA is now missing out on important research funding due to a shortage of health infrastructure (*News*, 26/1).

The crises in health, education and housing should not exist when the government coffers are overflowing with the fortuitous windfall they are blessed with from record mining royalties and much improved GST receipts.

The reckless spending of billions of dollars being squandered on Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti's personal vanity projects and wasteful subsidies has to stop and start being invested in the essential services the public needs.

The state of our hospitals is a disgrace, our children are sweltering in classrooms, half of which are demountables with substandard air-conditioning, over 23,000 people are stuck on the State's public housing list and now we are told WA is missing out on Federal funds because we lack the necessary infrastructure.

Alan Freind, Leeming

Great, but faults exist

I'd be rich if I had a dollar for every time a politician, like Anthony Albanese, declared that Australia is "the greatest country on earth".

True patriotism lies not in delusional rhetoric, but in a sober evaluation of one's country's faults as well as its virtues.

Australia is undoubtedly a better place in which to live than many other countries, and for this I am profoundly grateful. However, Indigenous incarceration rates, household



Roger Cook

debt, unaffordable housing, species extinction and environmental degradation, domestic violence and rising levels of extremism and intolerance are all areas in which Australia needs to lift its game. It would be refreshing to hear political leaders using Australia Day as a rallying cry to better ourselves rather than as an occasion for facile self-congratulation.

Don Robertson, Daglish

Gongs for doing it wrong

We as a nation rightly honour those who have achieved distinction in their lives.

There are also under-achievers, who should also be recognised as Asses of the Year. I believe there are three contenders for WA and Australia generally.

Number one, Anthony Albanese, number two Rita Saffioti, and, last but not, least Roger Cook.

Alan Harste, Karnup

Follow financial rules

Mathias Cormann's recent warning to premiers and the Prime Minister to adopt "fiscal rules" makes sound economic sense. Rule #1, don't let outgoings exceed incomings, rule #2, if you decide to borrow

money, make sure you can repay it. And rule #3, always follow both rules.

Roy Stall, Mt Claremont

Burning issue missed

Why wasn't burning the national Australian flag included in the recently passed hate crimes legislation included? Surely this heinous expression by someone must be classified as a crime against the Australian people and country? A time in jail followed by deportation should be the minimum penalty.

How did this item get dismissed by the Albanese Government? The Australian public deserve to have burning the flag as a crime. To not do so defies the logic of the hate crime laws.

Kevin Bown, Hocking

Veterans still ignored

The national president of the RSL, Peter Tinley, quite rightly indicates the RSL Association intention to continue to advocate for veterans in Australia (*Opinion*, 26/1).

As Mr Tinley states, veterans face many challenges, which were aired during the royal commission into veteran suicide. Veterans appreciate the continued work of the RSL, but my concern is, why does the plight of veterans always seem to drop under the radar of governments, with the massive backlog in veteran compensation claims several years ago, being one tragic example?

This backlog in veteran claims, with a three-year wait, was dealt with to a large extent, but this needs to have complete transparency to avoid the same problem happening again.

Ron Peckitt, Duncraig