

I set to lead

Allman-Payne. New Zealand and the UK got it right. Age pension is exactly what is says, subject only to residency and citizenship rules only.

Wake up Canberra and give a fair go to seniors who have paid taxes all through their working life.

Chris Krishnan, Madeley

Middle ground needed

Ewin Armstrong argues that the government pension should only be based on your age and not effected by your assets or other income sources. I think the fair position lies in between.

Australia is ageing rapidly and the already straining tax base would struggle to pay everyone the same pension.

Paul Keating and subsequent leaders set up a system that would allow many, via their super funds, to be less reliant on the government's purse — a forced savings and investment plan for our retirements. They even made it advantageous to do so with generous tax breaks. This is what I did and it worked, so I don't think taxpayers' money should now go to me. I believe it should go to those in need, despite having paid taxes my whole working life.

I would rather the government made the healthcare card and pensioner discount schemes universal and aged-based.

As I am a happily self-funded retiree, this would help push my modest income along without directly being a financial cost on the taxpayers.

Obviously our limited taxes could also be spent on improving schools and hospitals.

Benedict Hodsdon, Nedlands

Universally unfair

Ewin Armstrong suggests that age pensions should be universal. I doubt that it is fair

Track before everything

WA Premier Roger Cook and Treasurer Rita Saffioti's pet project, the Perth racetrack, has quietly commenced groundworks (*News*, 2/2), which does not come as a surprise with the underhanded way this Government operates.

Forget about the 40 plus schools without air conditioning so the kids suffer. Forget about the people including school-aged kids who are living on the streets.

Forget about the cost of living which is out of control.

Forget about our hospitals which are falling down around our ears.

Forget about the cost of houses skyrocketing. The list is endless.

Rather, \$217 million is wasted so a couple of egotistical politicians can get their jollies off. What a joke, but no one is laughing.

Robert Morgan, Embleton

Who actually wants it?

It seems that, despite heaps and heaps of protests from various sources, the construction of the racetrack has started. Does the public outcry ever get any attention from politicians?

Who is it who advocated for this racetrack? I have yet to see a letter in *The West Australian* giving this project his or her blessing.

Why wasn't this issue put to the people of this State for their opinion on whether this, at this present time, take precedence over problems we all know about? Hospitals and health systems, homelessness, etc.

The public's needs should come before certain parliamentarians pet projects.

And there is little doubt the racetrack will go over budget by several millions of dollars — and no doubt this will be shrugged off by our intrepid leaders as usual.

Richard Sims, Bull Creek

