

Staff battling on as leaders fail them

Thank you for highlighting the sad state of affairs within some WA government-run hospitals (*News*, 16/1).

I'd like to point out that, despite hospital buildings and equipment becoming run-down under Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey's nose, hospital nursing, medical and ancillary staff battle on.

Last November, I presented at Bunbury Regional Hospital and ended up with a 24-hour admission.

In all fairness, the buildings and equipment I experienced were pretty good and the staff were exemplary.

I was referred to Fiona Stanley Hospital where once again, service was spot-on and staff slick and efficient.

This week I had a day procedure in Bunbury Hospital and can not speak highly enough of the proficiency of all the medical and nursing staff involved.

For the sake of all those hospital staff and patients, let's hope Carey's promises become action.

Mike Fenton, Bunbury

Divert money to health

Roger Cook, if Anthony Albanese can do a backflip on the royal commission, you, too, can be brave and do a backflip on the racetrack fiasco.

Make everyone's day and be sensible. Use the money to fix our hospitals.

You should be ashamed to be in charge of such a mediocre group of ministers. Stop waffling and get the work done.



John Carey

We do not need a racetrack, but we do need fully functioning clean, safe, and sanitary hospitals with plenty of staff to care for the sick.

Stop saying the ratepayers share your dreams — we don't. I do not know one person who wants a racetrack, but you should hear what they say about the hospitals.

Oh, and well done, Basil Zempilas — your comments were spot on, as usual. Maureen Collett, Caversham

Chance to shine, John

"Crazy brave". Words the AMA's president used to describe Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey's promise to take ownership of the hospital mess.

Apparently a smart operator, Carey has always come across to me — rightly or wrongly — as a touch arrogant and condescending.

It remains to be seen whether shouldering the failures of past health ministers, including the Premier, and resolving the

current issues to the satisfaction of most, will be the making of the man.

Time will tell. Dirk Botje, Bull Creek

Quit if you can't do it

Our hospital health system has been nothing short of a disaster under Roger Cook, Amber-Jade Sanderson and Meredith Hammat — and now Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey puts his hand up to finally take most of the blame.

Or is it a case of Treasurer Rita Saffioti not allowing enough money for hospital maintenance because of her over-budget train lines and proposed race car tracks? There's always been money for her projects.

Minister Carey, it's time to step down if you can't do the job.

Tom Burton, Jandakot

See what he did, Sabine?

Perhaps Minister of Education Sabine Winton will take a lead from Health Infrastructure Minister John Carey and accept that she needs to do a lot more towards fulfilling her role.

With regional education and improving student wellbeing listed in the duties of her position, perhaps she could copy the latest health maintenance audit strategy suggestions and apply them to the education portfolio.

Our schools maintenance is also reactive, chaotic and comes out of the independent schools "one line budget" funding.

Rachel Woods, Kirup

Time to end track's twists and turns

Now that we have moved into 2026, maybe, just maybe, it is time for Premier Roger Cook to smell the roses. Or more appropriately to smell the pristine environment on the Burswood Peninsula.

Cook opened 2025 in a V8 race car asking us to imagine the noise of these cars racing around a "street circuit" at Burswood.

As the year progressed and the smoke-and-mirrors approach to government revealed itself for the nonsense that it was, the Premier and his deputy dug in their heels. It didn't take much digging in the Burswood turf.

We had a sham public consultation, a sham Environmental Protection Authority review and a series of nasty personal attacks on those who opposed this tone-deaf government.

The truth-twisting and alternative facts were a wonder to behold.

Suddenly we now have "Perth Park".

The Premier and his advisers have finally woken up to the fact that the noise of V8s racing around a newly created track — not a street circuit — within metres of homes is not ideal.

How do residents cope with this? Leave their homes when racing takes place, wear ear plugs inside their homes, buy triple glazing? This is not a



Cook and Saffioti in 2025.

sketch from Utopia. Premier, the ideal solution to this hole you have created is to stop digging.

Take a look at the mess you have created and put in the planned urban forest. The electorate will thank you for it. Gerry Prewett, Victoria Park

Jobs claim far-fetched

State Treasurer Rita Saffioti's enthusiasm for hosting a State of Origin match (*Opinion*, 16/1) is understandable, but claims that it will create jobs need to be kept in perspective.

Major sporting events do generate short-term employment around game day, particularly in hospitality and transport.

However, these roles are temporary and disappear once the event concludes. They do not represent lasting job creation.

Western Australia already has the highest number of job

vacancies in the nation, so short-term positions do little to address underlying workforce pressures or long-term employment needs.

There may be a brief economic uplift and some tourism exposure, but genuine economic growth depends on sustained investment and long-term planning, not one-off events.

Ewin Armstrong, Mt Hawthorn

Lost the illegal cigs war

The illegal tobacco industry has got the wood on the Cook Government. They will never rein it in now, the horse has already bolted.

Near my son's home in the northern suburbs a car pulled up in front of units and a lot of the residents went to the car to purchase cigarettes.

So, Wayne Mailer (*Letters*, 15/1), standalone tobacco shops are not going to help.

Janet Purdue, Currambine

Free advice, right here

As the problems mount for our Premier and how to deal with them, the simple solution is that he sit down with his Cabinet ministers every morning and hand them a copy of the *Letters* page of *The West Australian*.

All his solutions are there. It's called common sense. It's free advice — no six-figure consulting price tag.

John Anderson, Mindarie



Article List