Night in a mixed ward might help

It is admirable when public figures take the time to highlight issues affecting our community — such as homelessness — through events like the Vinnies CEO Sleep Out.

With that in mind, I would like to suggest that our Premier, Roger Cook, and Health Minister, Meredith Hammat, might consider their own version — not by sleeping on cardboard in a stadium, but by spending 24 hours as a patient in a mixed ward at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Such an experience would offer an unfiltered insight into what many West Australians face when they enter our public hospital system: the waiting, the discomfort, the overworked staff doing their best with limited resources, and the challenges of navigating care under pressure.

Just as the Sleep Out builds empathy for the plight of those without homes, a "Hospital Sleep Out" could build understanding — and perhaps urgency — for improving our healthcare system.

They could take solace in the possibility of being ramped in a nice warm ambulance for a large part of the night.

Phil Harrison, East Perth

Just arrogance

I cannot believe the arrogance of the Premier, Roger Cook, Health Minister Meredith Hammat and Deputy Premier Rita Saffioti on their stance on the maintenance issues affecting the staff and patients at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (*News*, 13/8), especially Cook's pathetic response to the Opposition calls in Parliament.

Surely if they could take a walk into SCGH and see the lack of maintenance in this major hospital. All it needs is for the Health Minister to get the government maintenance team to address all the issues to ensure patient and staff safety.

Premier Roger Cook

I am sure neither of these three incompetent politicians would allow this to happen in their own home or, god forbid, the State Parliament, so why should the public and health workers be exposed to this?

Get off your high horses and back slapping on an NRL team and racetrack which the majority of people don't want and get this actioned as demanded by the people of WA. Remember, Mr Cook, you and your cohorts work for us and are paid to do job so get moving.

Tim Winch, Hillman

Mushroom fears

On behalf of the taxpayers of the great State of WA, I would like to commit $217 million from our Burswood racetrack initiative to the infrastructure and maintenance fund of our public hospitals. This funding will likely stop the mushrooms that have formed on the ceiling above my hospital bed from falling into my soup.

Kevin Woods, North Fremantle

Clean the glasses

Roger Cook, you should have gone to Specsavers, mate. The health system ain't that great here in WA. Swap the rose-coloured glasses for prescribed ones.

You'll see everything so much clearer what the people of this State actually require as far as priorities are concerned.

Bruce Larsen, Erskine

Break for summer

Not to worry, Mother Nature will fix 60 per cent of the problem. Seasons will change and our beautiful long summer will dry everything out with reports of mould issues, etc., retreating. No fix needed. All OK for eight months then let the same battle begin for another round.

Ian A. Howe, Busselton

Spending inquiry

On reading the editorials and comments over the past weeks, I think it's about time a royal commission or the like should be called to investigate the wilful spending by this Government on a rugby team, racetrack and the likes to fulfil private whims,while our hospital systems are falling apart. This is a disgusting situation and should be looked into immediately.

Ray Stonehouse, Bassendean

Swap these funds over

The State Government seems illogically hell-bent on spending millions of dollars building two ferry terminals within a few hundred metres of one another at Canning Bridge.

Why not have one on the Como side as planned but upgrade the ageing SCGH instead of having a second ferry terminal on the environmentally sensitive Applecross foreshore?

C. Johnston, Applecross

An act damned by tainted praise