understanding of social

monsters".

Cook can't keep blaming Commonwealth for hospital fails

BASIL ZEMPILAS

1 What part of "full-blown" health disaster does this State Government not understand? Is it the patients waiting up to 10 hours for care at emergency departments, is it consecutive days of elective surgery being cancelled, is it the record ambulance ramping, or is it the entry door at the mortuary at Charlies left unrepaired for three months? Our deluded Premier wants you to believe this is world-class. The AMA calls it a full-blown health emergency. I know who I believe.

2 And herein lies a significant part of the problem, as the hundreds of emails and direct messages I receive every day confirm. The public just does not believe the State Government is taking its concerns seriously. I certainly know they are not giving the Opposition straight answers in Parliament.

3 Of course, according to the Premier and Health Minister, we're in this predicament with the hospital system, not because of a lack of attention or lack of planning on their behalf but because the Federal Government hasn't provided enough funding for aged-care beds. In Perth on Sunday, the PM said that's wrong, they are doing enough and this week Federal Health Minister Mark Butler doubled down and stated categorically they are not to blame. So what exactly do the Premier and his entourage hope to achieve when they visit Canberra next week?

4 After a week of denial and ridicule directed at anyone who dared raise the shambolic state of Charlies, the Premier belatedly announced $50 million for maintenance and repairs there, and Royal Perth and Armadale hospitals. The money is welcome, but a reminder, it is $15m less than this Government is spending on Roger's rugby team and $167m less than they are spending on Rita's racetrack.

5 State politics is a robust space, but that doesn't mean it can't be civil. It was my pleasure to acknowledge in the chamber the birthdays of the Premier and the Attorney-General who both celebrated on Wednesday.

6 We often celebrate our resources industry but let's not forget our agriculture heroes. On the back of record winter rains, WA grain farmers are on track to deliver their fourth harvest exceeding 20 million tonnes since 2021. Outstanding.

7 The Simon Trott story just gets better. Now it's Wickepin to the White House. Simon says "I'm having a good few weeks".

8 The move to ban personal mobile phones from WA childcare centres is sensible — and supported.

9 After Anthony's time to shine last week, it was book parade day this week for daughter number two, Chloe. Her book of choice and dress-up; Kylie Howarth's Chip The Lifeguard with the customary red and yellow Aussie lifesaver outfit to match.

10 I've got a funny feeling Freo will win on Sunday and play finals after all. Let's see.

Basil Zempilas is the State Opposition Leader