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Dark staining and what appears to be some sort of growth along the roof of a staff training area.

Stained and dirty roof panels lining the public walkways through G block.

Water damage and what appears to be mould growing in a ward corridor.

ABSOLUTE SHAME

1000 calls for help by hospital staff fearful about patient safety

(report) raised for this issue, no one has fixed it, major WIS issue with roof leaking over employee desk. There is black mould causing staff to be sick. Please attend to this ASAP," an August 2024 report said.

It's far from an isolated case — with senior staff having to report mould outbreaks multiple times before they're dealt with.

In other parts of the hospital, repairs are carried out before the cause of the damage is addressed. "Water is gradually flooding the carpet which has only been replaced this month due to previous major leak."

There are consistent complaints across the facility about issues not being fixed.

"Room is leaking once again, causing flooding on the targeted area. The leak is linked to the air-con unit," one staff member wrote.

"Recent fires of the same issue has resulted in no air conditioning for the entire department. Once air conditioning is restored the leak starts again. This appears to be a cycle."

Another air conditioning leak in the physiotherapy ward went unaddressed for almost a year.

BUDGET CUTS TO MAINTENANCE, REPAIRS

As the damage and destruction piles up at St Charles Gardner hospital, North Metropolitan Health Service has slashed its expenditure on maintenance and repairs.

Analysis of its annual reports show the level of funding budgeted towards upkeep hasn't increased in real terms for at least seven years.

The health service spent about \$104 million on repairs and maintenance in 2022, that was slashed by more than 32 per cent in the following two years, down to \$75.4m in 2024.

Spending increased slightly over the following three years before reaching a high of \$29.8m in 2022.

The latest annual report budgets \$33.2m towards maintenance and repairs in 2024, an 11 per cent decrease from 2022.

As well as St Charles Gardner Hospital, North Metropolitan Health Service is responsible for the operations of Osborne Park, Goswami, King Edward Memorial hospitals and Jondalup Health Campus.

Charlton Hart

"The repairman recommended that the air-con be replaced for a new unit, as it is old, decrepit, and running illegal gas," the work order said.

"Can we please get this air-con reviewed ASAP to stop it leaking with patients present and a quote for replacement of the air-con in this room and the other treatment rooms."

Photos taken inside the hospital last week and obtained by The West Australian show signs of rusty and water-damaged roof panels in multiple wards, while other sections are caked with dirt.

In one photo taken from a public

corridor, a dark furry substance resembling black mould can be seen growing from two separate areas on the ceiling affected by moisture.

In the first six months of 2025 there were 185 maintenance requests — more than one job every day.

St Charles Gardner Hospital was built in late 1950s and Opposition Leader Bardi Zappalà said the facility had deteriorated into "catastrophic" conditions.

"The Premier should be ashamed. This is a crisis that is endangering lives and it is his responsibility," Mr Zappalà said.

"He needs to drop everything else and make this his No 1 priority."

There is nothing more important and no more fundamental responsibility of any government than the care of sick, injured and dying West Australians.

The Opposition Leader called on the Cook Government to abandon its plans for a racetrack at Borwood and redirect the hundreds of millions in funding towards urgent hospital repairs.

"The Premier — a former health minister — must stop deflecting, dismissing and denying that the health system is in

this state of crisis," he said. In a statement, Health Infrastructure Minister John Curry denied the reported radioactive wastewater leak at the hospital, claiming it was less serious than reported in mainstream logs.

"The incident on 13 March 2022 in the G block sub-basement was not a radioactive leak," he said. "It involved a non-hazardous water leak from a pipe."

"I have been assured that the August 2024 sewage issue was not a pipe burst. It was a blockage." Mr Curry denied any presence of toxic black mould in the hospital and said investigations including air monitoring had been completed.

"Between January 2023 and June 2025, 982 work orders were raised, though many were duplicate requests reflecting proactive reporting by staff and facilities management," he said.

Of those, 52 leaks were identified in ICU areas. The majority were resolved quickly as part of business-as-usual (BAU) maintenance.

North Metropolitan Health Service was contacted for comment but didn't respond by deadline.

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