

# WA health is still our biggest crisis

The health system in Western Australia is a greater crisis than the petrol shortage.

In no way, however, are my comments a reflection of the first-rate job that our hospital staff, doctors, nurses, clinicians and occupational and physical training therapists do on a daily basis under restrictive working conditions as a result of the State Labor Government's inaction, ambulance ramping being a classic example.

My wife had a bleed on the brain 15 months ago and has been receiving rehabilitation support after being discharged from Joondalup hospital in March last year.

After discharge the ongoing support was taken on by the excellent occupational therapy and physio staff at Osborne Park's Therapy Hub.

This unit serves as a central rehabilitation centre for both inpatients and outpatients. It specialises in rehabilitation following strokes, amputations, or for individuals living with neurological conditions.

Unfortunately, due to my wife's perception that she was



**Roger Cook**

making little progress, unlike what we as a family were seeing, in her opinion she considered herself to be a burden and useless due to her inability to do things.

The outcome of her mental state was that she attempted to take her own life, resulting in admission to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. Once stabilised she was transferred to the mental health facility at Osborne Park Hospital.

She is deemed by the hospitals psychiatrist to be, due to her fragile state, not suitable for discharge but has been recommended for Hospital in the Home services.

She wants to go home, which is now causing her much angst, but several likely discharge dates have been postponed, simply as consequence of insufficient staffing within Hospital in the Home.

Her recovery depends very much on her mental condition, and the inability to access the vital service of HITH is not only exasperating to her, but also us, her family. This situation can only result in detrimental outcomes due to a "nothing to see here" attitude by Roger Cook, Meredith Hammat and the Labor Government.

The WA health system should be the envy of the other States, given our State's \$2.4 billion surplus, yet we find the health system to be in freefall due to an ineffective Government preoccupied with vain and feel-good projects, and a missing-in-action Health Minister.

The surplus should ensure essential services are provided and broken down equipment in hospitals is replaced in a timely manner.

**Name and address supplied**