

Some comfort in health comparison

West Australians need to know that our health system isn't as bad as many other places.

I have just returned from New Zealand where I spent many days with my sister, who has since passed away. When I first arrived at the hospital I inquired about all the people sitting on the floor along the corridor, leaning against the wall. I was told it was the overflow from the emergency department. Over the 10 days I was visiting, there were always patients lining the wall.

On my flight home, the Irish lady seated next to me informed me that in Ireland attendance at an ED costs €100, paid up front, unless you have a doctor's letter or a health card. Maybe Australia needs to adopt this practice. During a recent visit to England, I tried to buy a product that can be bought over the counter in Australia. I needed a prescription.

The hotel called a doctor who charged me £100 to write the script.

I truly believe that if you are sick enough in Perth, you will be seen to, even though it may take a while. I've never been charged a cent, and I remember that while I'm waiting. It doesn't matter how big the ED is if there are insufficient staff to tend to the sick. We need more doctors and nurses.

Deirdre McGorry, Greenmount

Extra use for the bridge

Idea for Roger and Rita. Instead of using the Boorloo Bridge to advertise UFC why not advertise ambulance ramp times? At least people passing by in ambulances to Royal Perth Hospital can see how long they have to hold on for before getting attention. Heard 419 minutes the other day on



Ambulances at SCGH.

the radio — may as well divert and jump on a flight to a Bali hospital to get quicker service. Stop wasting money on a racetrack nobody wants and use the millions more sensibly for the voters who elected you.

Darryl Harris, Burswood

Details would be handy

Premier Roger Cook is quoted in *The West* (*News*, 1/9): "We have a plan to address the needs of health care in WA." Perhaps to allay the concerns of citizens about the self-evident problems he could provide us with the nuts and bolts of this "plan".

Lance Croft, Green Head

Park protectors ready

It was so good to read Paul Murray's succinct essay (*Opinion*, 30/8) highlighting the argument against this ridiculous proposal. Save Burswood Park Alliance hired Victoria Park Bowling Club's meeting room for Sunday just gone, thinking the venue was big enough but it was standing room only with people banking up at the door.

As Murray pointed out, the Government's Burswood Park Board set up in 1985 has stated the 52.9ha nature reserve was a "world class, cultural,

environmental, and recreational showpiece". Suddenly, just weeks from the State election, came Labor's mention of a \$217.5 million racetrack, and since the election no community consultation. Even Hannah Beazley, our local member, knew nothing about it! Of course, Paul can't say this but "If it smells like a fish. . .". All he could ask was "Is there a contractual obligation somewhere the public doesn't know about?"

There was a strong feeling at Sunday's meeting that Perth needs its recreational parks and Burswood has become a wonderful habitat for wildlife with the previously contaminated rubbish dump buried. We all enjoy this parkland and will fight tooth and nail to keep it.

Eileen Whitehead, Queens Park

Too tempting

What was Ben Wyatt thinking when, in 2018, he set up his WA debt reduction fund which would be fed by half of the State's windfall iron ore royalties? The *West*, (*News*, 31/8) reported almost \$8.2 billion has flowed through the account but has now sat idle at zero for two years while the State's debt remains at the same level Labor inherited in 2017 and is forecast, thanks to Rita Saffioti's spending spree (on all the wrong priorities) to rise to \$42 billion by 2028.

Mr Wyatt must have been delusional at the time thinking a Labor government could resist the urge to spend this pile of other people's money rather than pay down its debt, as Mark McGowan promised, slowly and carefully.

Alan Freind, Leeming