

It was possible in 1854, why not now?

In 1854, London was in the death grip of a cholera outbreak. People — whole families — were dying rapidly and theories as to the cause were confused and chaotic, with most attributing it to a “miasma” or “bad air”.

One man, Dr John Snow, driven by deep compassion, methodically and carefully plotted each case on a map.

Working tirelessly, he soon saw a pattern emerge in the streets of Soho, and using this new geographical epidemiology, cleverly identified a water pump as the source, saving countless lives in the nick of time.

Dr Snow was deeply committed to public health and responded swiftly to prevent further suffering.

I have nursed patients on ventilators in ICU suffering legionnaires’ disease and I can not comprehend not doggedly pursuing any epidemiological clues as to a source of this preventable disease.

It is not acceptable that an investigation of identifying a source of legionnaires’ disease at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, was rejected (*News*, 4/10).

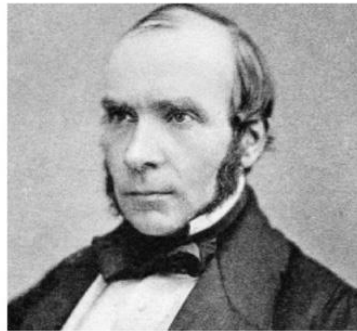
Was it one budget item too many for a hospital under tight constraint?

This is a failure of duty of care and this Health Minister must account for it.

Amanda-Sue Markham, Doubleview

Shame or sorrow?

I don’t know whether to be ashamed of or sorry for our



Dr John Snow

present State Government. Are others ashamed when a racetrack/entertainment precinct, a rugby team, and river ferries are funded as a priority over sick WA citizens being stranded for thousands of hours in ambulances ramped outside hospital emergency departments?

Or, should we feel sorry for the Government if it does not possess the skills necessary to solve the ramping crisis?

Bernard Eastman, City Beach

Prioritise our money

While definitely agreeing with Richard Sims regarding the insulting pay offer to firefighters (*Letters Extra*, 4/10) — and any of the other frontline personnel not being adequately recompensed for their dedication — I’d just point out that it isn’t the Premier’s pile of money to do with as he wishes, but actually belongs to the taxpayer, as flagged by Andrew Wynne’s letter (4/10) quoting Margaret Thatcher.

Maggie also said: “When there is only so much money to

spend, you have to make choices, and the same is true of governments.”

I’d say the choices definitely do not include unpopular speedways and the like.

Dirk Botje, Bull Creek

Obvious outcome

Really? No one in Federal Government foresaw the probable result of thousands of prospective homebuyers running around with minimal deposit and government guaranteed payment of the rest?

High school economics teaches the relationship between supply and demand!

Wendy Stewart, Middle Swan

Trump a miracle worker

US President Donald Trump has manoeuvred both sides — Israel and Hamas — into a position where neither dares to step out of line. Now the world must hope and pray that his strategy unlocks the path to a peaceful Middle East.

Miracles do happen — and this could be one of them!

Sas Saddick, Leederville

Don’t give Albo credit

What a joke Anthony Albanese trying to insinuate that he and his Government have played any positive part in the Gaza peace plan. He did nothing but interfere from day one.

Also, it’s recently becoming outrageous that when some media are quoting “world leaders” Albanese is named as one of them. Surely not?

John Bandy, Scarborough