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THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2023

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CUT & RUN

VOLUNTEERS TO SWAP SCISSORS FOR SNEAKERS PAGE 3

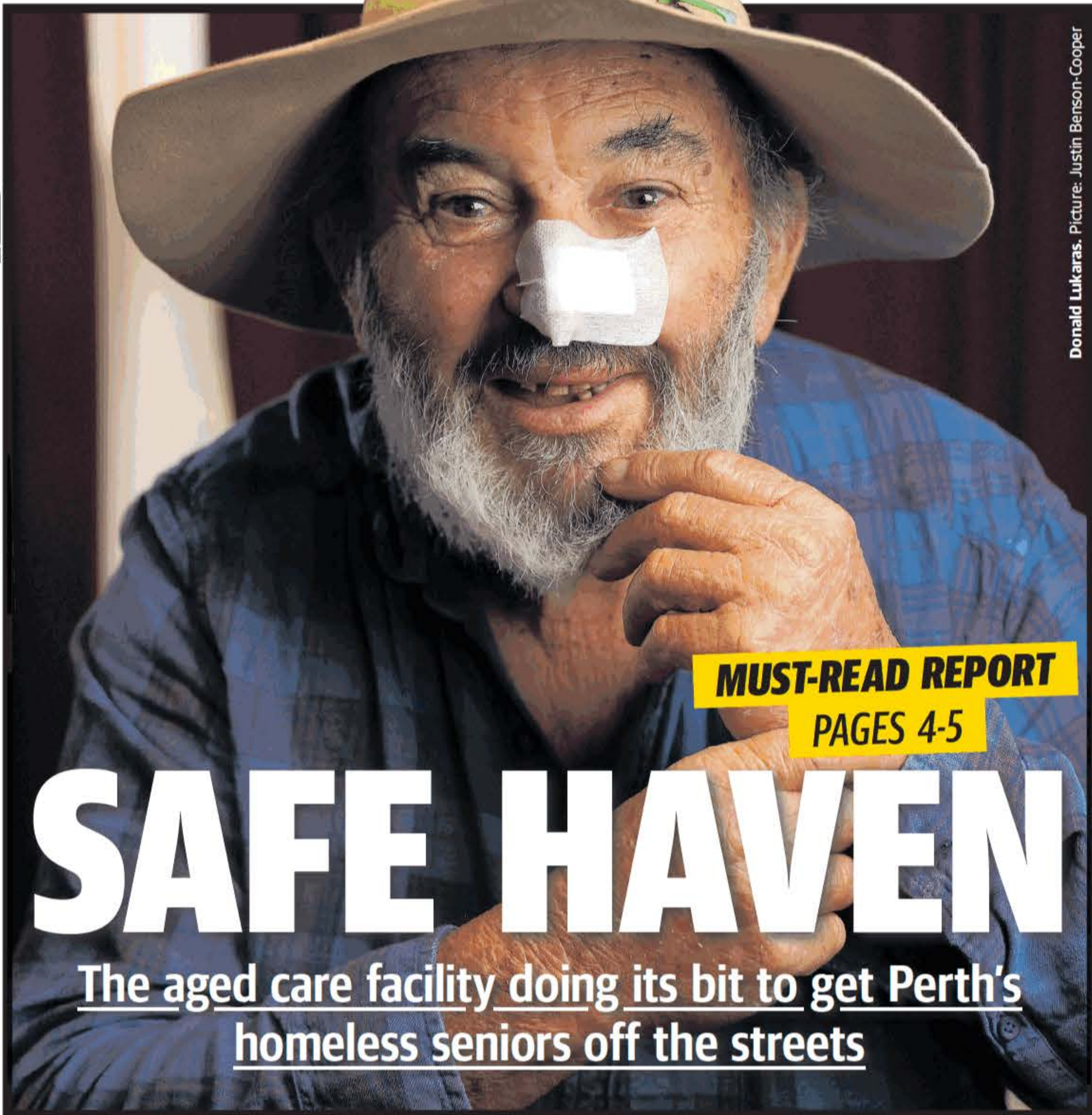
SHUT DOWN

VICTORIA RIFICI

The owner of Evolution Bikes has vowed to take the City of Vincent to the State Administrative Tribunal after the council decided on Tuesday not to approve two roller shutters protecting his business from thieves.

As exclusively revealed in PerthNow last week, Anthony Hart spent \$5000 on two black window shutters after five break-ins but the city forced him to submit a development application because they were "incompatible".

FULL REPORT PAGE 7



Donald Lukaras. Picture: Justin Benson-Cooper

MUST-READ REPORT PAGES 4-5

SAFE HAVEN

The aged care facility doing its bit to get Perth's homeless seniors off the streets



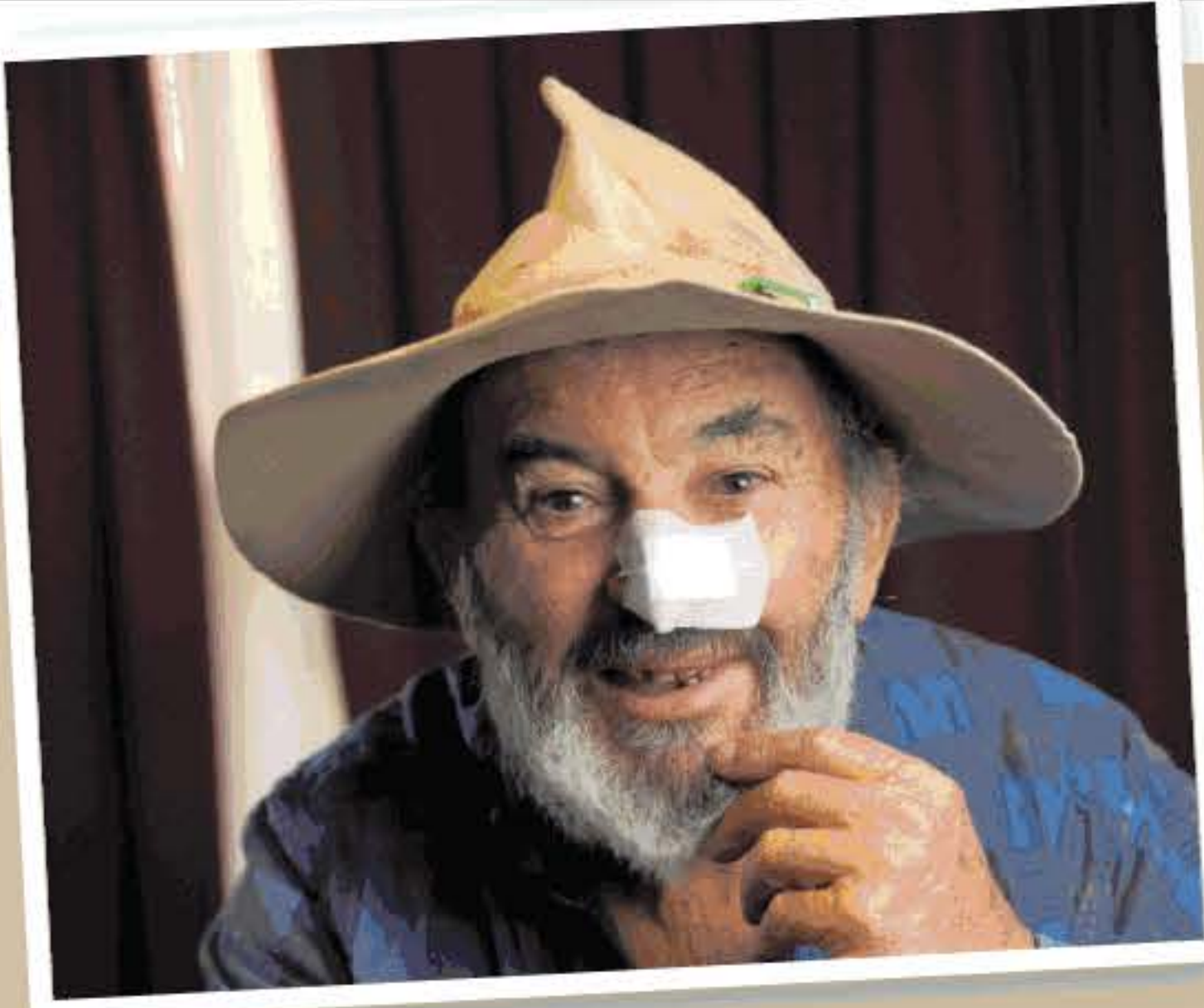
SENATOR DEAN SMITH



Your local Senator

08 9343 4108 senator.smith@aph.gov.au www.deansmithwa.com.au SenatorDeanSmith deansmithwa

Authorised by D. Smith, Liberal Party of Australia, Unit 2, 91-97 Wanneroo Road, Greenwood, WA, 6024



Donald Lukaras. Picture: Justin Benson-Cooper

Help for homeless comes of age



EXCLUSIVE VICTORIA RIFICI

A West Leederville residential aged care centre is the first in the State to hold a number of vacant, private rooms for those aged over 65 and homeless.

Southern Cross Care's Villa Pelletier opened a small number of vacancies at the facility at the end of last year specifically for homeless people aged 65 and over with health needs.

"What we've ascertained is there's nowhere for vulnerable people to go and live over 65 so we decided to provide housing for those socially disadvantaged," Villa Pelletier facility manager Sharon Hallam, pictured right, said.

It took just two months for the facility to fill the 12 out of 40 beds

that were put aside for that demographic.

"The facility was already three-quarters filled with people who had come from similar kinds of situations so we just thought let's try and give these people somewhere to live," Ms Hallam said.

"We are only reaching out to homeless moving forward as beds become available in the home."

For 73-year-old Donald Lukaras, who spent 10 months last year living on the streets of Armadale, moving in to the facility has been life-changing.

"If I didn't come here, I don't know where I could have been; could've been dead as far as I know," he told PerthNow this week.

Mr Lukaras, who recently had treatment for skin cancer on his

nose, was living in Kalgoorlie until the residential complex he was residing in was knocked down, leaving him without a home.

He jumped in to his old V8 car and moved to Perth, where he lived inside his vehicle until he was forced to sell it and purchased a gopher instead.

"I would sleep in my car until they took my licence off me so I ended up getting a gopher and lived on the streets for about 10 months in the Armadale area," he said.

"Sometimes I would go and stay in a hotel and then I would go back on the street again. I'd get underneath where Westpac Armadale bank is and I would have shelter, or sometimes I'd go up to the Armadale museum (History

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StirlingNotices



Seasonal weed control notification

To keep the City's bushlands, parks and sports fields free from weeds and ensure their continued health and community use, seasonal broadleaf weed control will be conducted from May to October 2023 (weather permitting).

- Broadleaf herbicides will be applied in accordance with label directions and best practice from the Western Australian Department of Health
- Application will cease in wet or windy conditions
- Weed spraying vehicles will have clear signage showing which chemical is being applied. Signage will also be positioned around the area while spraying is in progress
- Spotters will always be present to warn pedestrians of spraying on site.

For more information or to subscribe to the City's pesticide notification register, visit www.stirling.wa.gov.au/pestsandweeds or call the City on (08) 9205 8555.

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The West Leederville aged care centre doing its bit to get seniors off the streets in WA first-initiative

House Museum). I had good places to get out of the rain and when it was hot I would go into shopping centres and get free air-conditioning but from day to day I was eating and showering alright.”

He suffers from a number of health conditions including diabetes but since living at the facility, his health has “significantly improved”.

“I’ve got the right medications now, I feel a lot better,” he said.

“Sometimes I would forget my medication — I must be honest about that — but it’s all good here because I’m getting it done every day.”

Prospective residents who meet Aged Care Assessment Team criteria, have a mental health diagnosis and demonstrate insecure tenancy will be offered permanent residency in a private single room at Villa Pelletier.

It costs people like Donald just \$58.98 a day to live at the facility which covers 24/7 nursing care and lifestyle activities.

“That covers occupational therapy, the doctor, a warm bed, three meals, everything,” Ms Hallam said.

Ms Hallam said most residents at the facility had no money other than their full pension.

Mr Lukaras arrived at Villa Pelletier on January 6 this year after visiting Royal Perth Hospital’s emergency department for health concerns, including swollen legs.

It was through the hospital’s in-reach program Homeless Healthcare that Ms Hallam was contacted about whether the facility had a spare bed available for Donald.

“RPH has the specific program but every hospital has social workers doing their very best to find somewhere for these people to go,” Ms Hallam said.

“I receive calls from transitional care, older adult mental health, charity organisations, public guardians, volunteer organisations and, at times, friends of the individual.”

A State Government spokesperson welcomed Southern Cross Care’s decision to open vacancies at Villa Pelletier to assist those with complex needs.

“It should be noted that funding for primary health care, including aged-care, is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government,

however at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the State Government, through the Department of Health, provided additional funding to Homeless Healthcare to help protect our most vulnerable people,” the spokesperson said.

“In 2020 Homeless Healthcare received two grants in addition to their ongoing service agreement for drop-in clinics, which included a six-month grant of \$735,493 to increase Street Health service delivery, focused on rough sleepers, and \$317,984 for 12 months for a Transition Clinic. The State Government has also delivered on its election commitment to secure \$3.65 million in funding for Street Doctor Programs in Perth and Fremantle, to operate a free mobile medical service for people experiencing homelessness.”



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