

Bed wait blowout revealed

By JULIAN KENNEDY

PRINCESS Alexandra Hospital at Buranda is among the state's worst hospitals for "bed gridlock", figures obtained last week by the State Opposition reveal.

The PA ranked number two on the list of eight hospitals where patients had to wait six hours or more for a bed in the emergency department during 2007/08.

Opposition Health spokesman Mark McArdle said the median wait in most major Queensland hospitals had blown out from four hours and 48 minutes in 2004/05 to almost six hours in 2007/08.

Sick and injured people waited an average of seven hours and 27 minutes for a bed at the PA after arriving at the emergency department.

Mr McArdle said a shortage of "real" hospital beds was the main reason for the gridlock, which he said was getting worse and had previously had fatal consequences.

"There were actually more 'real' public hospital beds a decade ago - and less people," he said.

Health Minister Stephen Robertson said the Opposition

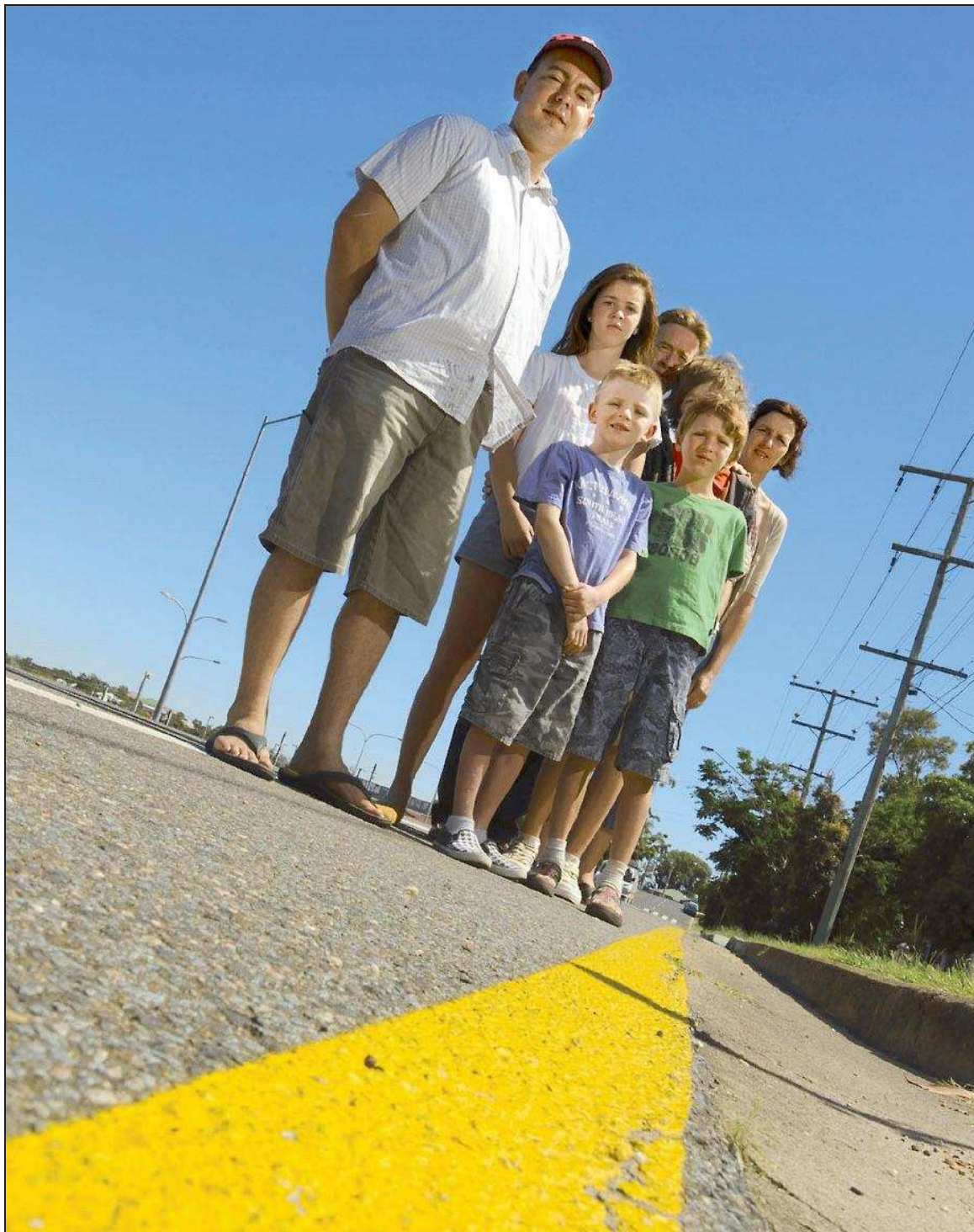
closeup our five worst

- 1. Caboolture Hospital (7 hours 33 minutes)
- 2. Princess Alexandra and Townsville Hospitals (7 hours 27 minutes)
- 3. Gold Coast Hospital (7 hours 24 minutes)
- 4. Nambour Hospital (7 hours 13 minutes)
- 5. Cairns Base Hospital (6 hours 58 minutes)

failed to mention that all patients who arrived at the emergency department had their condition assessed immediately by medical staff.

"What they're talking about is people who have already been triaged or treated and that's what saves lives," he told the *South East Advertiser* on Thursday

He said the government was tackling bed waiting times by adding 770 beds in Queensland hospitals from 2008-11.



RW159625

■ Yellow fever . . . residents of Waminda St, Morningside are upset about parking restrictions outside their homes. Picture: Richard Walker

Scam exposed

CARINDALE Post Office was caught up in an alleged scam involving fake credit cards last week.

Police arrested two people on Wednesday after a search of a vehicle at the post office and a residence in Fortitude Valley.

Police allegedly located multiple counterfeit credit cards, forged drivers licences, gift cards and property suspected of being purchased using gift cards.

Police allege the two they ar-

rested were among four people charged over a scam where fake credit cards and identification were used to purchase gift cards, which were then used to purchase goods.

Detective Superintendent Brian Hay of the Queensland Police Service's Fraud and Corporate Crime Group said similar crime was increasing nationally, with shopping gangs using fake driver's licences and credit cards with skimmed data to buy gift cards.

Seeing red over yellow lines

RESIDENTS are angered by a council decision to remove on-street parking from their Morningside street with almost no consultation.

Brisbane City Council removed the parking to solve the problem of commuters from Morningside Railway Station parking out the street.

However, Waminda St residents blame Brisbane City

Councillor Shayne Sutton (Morningside) for agreeing to the change based on the feedback of four residents.

Waminda St resident Paul Davies, one of 20 residents who have signed a petition, said since the council painted yellow "no parking" lines down the length of the street people were unable to park outside their homes, and visitors found it

hard to get parks nearby.

"During the day someone would probably have to walk about 150 metres to get to the house."

Cr Sutton said she asked traffic committee chairman Graham Quirk to review the resident parking permit policy but he had refused.

Cr Quirk said parking permits were costly to administer.



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