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OUT WEDNESDAY - THE AUSTRALIAN'S REVIEW OF BOOKS - 32-PAGE LIFTOFF

States revolt over health crisis

By EVAN HANCOCK and JUSTIN FERHAR

THE public hospital system will be plagued "deeper and deeper to crisis" unless the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, agreed to fundamental reforms and extra funding of the healthcare system, State and Territory leaders said yesterday.

The warning came as the Health Ministers, including Victorian Premier Steve Bracks, met in a 14-hour session in four States only seven months ago.

In a scalded floor, the premiers and chief ministers, led by Howard's spokesman Mr Clinton, to finally hit "agreement" today to set up the Health Budget Joint Advisory Body which would be asked to reduce the Federal Government's health hand-out.

Following the Leaders Forum meeting in Hobart, the premiers and chief ministers released a joint communique in which they said the current pressure on the health system was "unsustainable".

Mr Howard's spokesman, Mr Clinton, said yesterday in private. Dr Woodbridge, agreed last yesterday to review Commonwealth health funding but refused to give any undertaking that extra money would flow to the States.

PM would be wise to hear premiers' prayers

JOHN HANCOCK and Peter Colvill think they understand the States quite well - the usual word of opportunistic premiers in search of a health of money.

It would be naive not to acknowledge a number of years of government hand-outs from the Leaders Forum.

The States have become an increasingly central part of the national political agenda that just getting another handout from the Commonwealth.

For example, repeated announcements of changes to the Health Budget Joint Advisory Body by the States, despite an election being by the States, despite an election being by the States, despite an election being by the States.

Alan Wood Comment

The States remain to enhance Howard's tax position. The States remain to enhance Howard's tax position. The States remain to enhance Howard's tax position.

The NSW Premier Mr Carr said the States and Territories believed the growth in public health care was increasing their capacity to fund the system, and there was a "critical need for leadership" in health reform.

the challenge and the message they will be sending to it if we can undertake tax reform from our narrow tax base, why can't the Commonwealth address the issue first?

The strong attack on health policy is another by-product of state ideology.

By warning of an unsustainable situation in which, unless they were, they were escalating the political pressure on Howard to deliver health reform.

But he made the bill of the States and the price they will demand for their co-operation in that regard. He addressed in the leader column of this week's *Australian* the States.

These are just two examples of why the States are going to be a more significant player for Howard than he seems to recognise.

major problems right across this country, and the Commonwealth's ineffective starting us of the funding we need, Mr Carr said.

He warned against any further cuts in health funding for the States, saying an "unbearable situation" would be created on public hospitals as a result of lower

It is a communique issued after the meeting of the Australian Health Ministers' Conference. It is a communique issued after the meeting of the Australian Health Ministers' Conference.

But in private health insurance parties, public health insurance, the communique states that the States are going to be a more significant player for Howard than he seems to recognise.

The Medicare agreement, under which the Commonwealth provides the States with public health insurance, is a major part of the funding every year private health insurance coverage drops by 1 per cent.

The review has been triggered twice previously and to further Commonwealth funding matters.

NOVA is seeking an immediate payment of \$20 million to compensate for the extra burden on public hospitals as a result of lower

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Pilot's widow to sue Bishop

By SCOTT EMERSON and KEVIN MEADE

A Black Hawk pilot plans to sue the Queensland Police Force for negligence, Mrs Bishop, for breach of contract for revoking his licence and preventing him from flying.

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Blacks blast Durack for her art illusion

By visual arts writer SUSAN McULLOCH

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Bank women resigned to frustration

By KIMRA LYALL

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A separate report examining the attitudes of ANZ staff also shows that despite attempts by the bank to improve prospects for women, they "do not find their working environment to be either fair or equitable".

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Blacks damn art of illusion

From Page 1

Much of her art has represented Aboriginal people in a Western figurative realist style.

However, according to an article in the current issue of the art magazine, *Art Monthly*, which revealed the existence of Eddie Burrup, several years ago, she started to develop a looser, more "elemental" style of working.

"Her (gallery director) daughter," said the article, "saw that they make much more sense in the Aboriginal context" and "Burrup emerged as a fully developed artistic persona towards the end of 1994".

Since, about six Eddie Burrup paintings have been displayed with several sold for about \$600 each, in her daughter, Ms Perpetua Hobcroft's Durack Gallery in Broome.

A reproduction of one of Eddie Burrup's work was sent as a Christmas card to Mellors, who requested that a work be included in the Native Titled exhibition.

But Eddie Burrup's story was not only told through his art. Durack also wrote a monograph, quoting him at length in kriol from so-called transcripts such as the description of the story of his intended Sulman entry: "One for early day time where allabout see'm Gudea first time — 'e makim cobber-cobber — big one — an 'e run that song all around ..."

Someone who signed the name "Burrup" and described the diptych work in kriol on the entry form also entered the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory's 1996 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Award and was selected, as are most entries, for hanging.

The chairwoman of the National Indigenous Arts Advocacy Association, which protects Aboriginal copyright, Ms Kay Mundine, said the people who bought the work certainly believed it was by someone it wasn't.

"But apart from the legal side, there is whole moral issue about what she's doing. The question of people from other groups taking cultures and using them for their own commercial or artistic purposes — it shows a complete lack of understanding and respect for the people who she says she's representing."

The appropriation, said Mr Kevin Kelly, director of the Kununura-based art centre, which represents Kimberley Aboriginal artists, was outrageous, totally against Aboriginal lore and would be discussed fully in weeks to come.

However, Durack's motives remained even more of a puzzle because she was obviously revered by her many Aboriginal friends in the area, he said.

"When she comes to town, she's just treated like a queen by her Aboriginal friends," he said.