



Letters

Anything goes

STRANGE things that could never happen seem to be commonplace these days.

Here are a couple of political no way, nevers. Britain to walk away from the EU and take her chance? Nah, it's dumb, never happen.

Donald Trump to be a real-life presidential candidate? It's crazy. Nah, never happen.

Territory Labor to lose 10-plus seats after one term? Nah never happen, at least according to the *NT News*.

All this should demonstrate that in politics there is no loyalty, nor any core party values to inspire it.

Events have shown that when the voters mark their ballot, the heart rules the head, resentment beats reason and those who feel they have little left to lose will play the wild card.

The NT Labor Government does not have a decade of rule ahead — it has four years to come good.

It is fundamental to the future of the Territory that the labour market be stabilized and new industry established quick smart.

The principal cause of the loss of our productive population is falling wages, or indeed no wages. As working people leave town rents and property values crash.

"Good news for first-time buyers", you say. Sure. But I've yet to hear of a bank that lends

■ If you think your home values are falling now, wait until the investors start going broke, the divorces kick in and the banks begin the fire sales. The anger from that will cull out the new Labor members as surely as it did the CLP. — SEE BELOW

to young people in the "gig economy".

Banks like to see regular fat paychecks, not BasicsCards and cheap labour ABNs.

If you think your home values are falling now, wait until the investors start going broke, the divorces kick in and the banks begin the fire sales.

The anger from that will cull out the new Labor members as surely as it did the CLP. Never happen, you say?

Mark, Howard Springs

Thanks so much

LAST week my daughter had a major seizure at Casuarina Square.

One security guard first on scene delivered vital first aid. Then three more wonderful guys attended, assisting with medical care, providing privacy and great care and assistance until our wonderful ambulance people arrived.

Thank you all so much!

If anyone found a necklace in the ladies' near Woolies, she would love it handed into Casuarina Square info desk.

Kim Bell

More help needed

THE article by Hayley Sorenson "Crunch on mental servi-

ces" (*NT News*, 17/10/16) raises some important points from the AIHW report *Mental health services — in brief*.

However, I am concerned the focus is only on clinical and acute services while the vital support provided in the community is overlooked.

The Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition is the peak body for the community managed mental health services in the Northern Territory.

The Coalition — with a membership including non-government organisations and agencies delivering mental health services across the Territory — supports a call for:

- more support for community mental health services across the Territory
- more professional staff to be available to provide clinical psychiatric services
- better support within remote communities
- increased education for all community workers in mental health
- continued investment in community mental health programs such as Partners in Recovery, and Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) — both of which are being phased out as the NDIS is rolled out.

The Coalition members deliver on-the-ground support

programs and services, both in urban and remote communities.

There are a variety of referral ways to these supports including self-referral and through a health professional.

There is ongoing need for community-based mental health services, and continuing vital work to de-stigmatise mental illness; reduce suicide and self-harm, and to provide awareness and early intervention support to clients, their families and communities. In short, there needs to be long-term, sustainable support for people living with serious mental illness.

The report and article highlight the fact that mental health clients and their carers in the NT do not have the same access to care that other Australians have.

The pressures of delivering services and programs to people living in remote communities adds another layer of burden for people living with mental illness.

**Vanessa Harris,
executive officer, NT
Mental Health Coalition**

Safety concerns

ON BULLYING and sexual harassment in the police force.

If this behaviour is really going on in the police force, how are we supposed to feel protected and safe in our community?

Gwen, Nakara