

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 17, 2025
The West Australian

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16-PAGE NBL SEASON GUIDE
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EXCLUSIVE

LEGIONELLA HIT AT ROYAL PERTH

CHARLTON HART

Patients and staff at Royal Perth Hospital were put at risk of contracting deadly legionnaires' disease with water-testing results exposing a rampant problem at the city health facility.

Legionella bacteria, which causes the pneumonia-like respiratory infection, was found at unsafe levels more than 230 times since January 2022. More than 40 of those occasions were in the intensive care unit.

The highest result was of 5200 colony-forming units — 520 times the acceptable level.

FULL REPORT PAGES 4-5

Win \$25K cash

DETAILS PAGE 16

SECURITY DEAL SETBACK

ALBO AND HIS PACIFIC PUKPUK

Is Beijing to blame for PNG Cabinet snubbing the PM's historic defence treaty

ANDREW GREENE
NATIONAL POLITICAL EDITOR

Anthony Albanese has suffered another security deal setback in the Pacific after Papua New Guinea failed to approve a new defence treaty.

Australian officials have been working for months to finalise the Pukpuk Treaty but PNG's Cabinet said it didn't have enough ministers present on Monday to grant final approval.

While Australian officials suspect diplomatic pressure from China played a role in Vanuatu's decision last week to delay its security deal with Australia, the Albanese Government is hopeful the PNG deal will be signed today.

As officials scramble to secure final sign-off, former Biden administration official Kurt Campbell warned Beijing could be partly responsible for the delay.

The former US deputy secretary of state said Beijing would seek to frustrate all Australian initiatives in the Pacific, including the PNG defence treaty.

FULL REPORT PAGE 6

PERTH 11-20 Showers. Tomorrow: Shower or two, 10-19. Yesterday: 6-18.7 Weather details P40

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