World of New Right
John Howard intervened in the Northern Territory because Australians care deeply about the welfare of our Aboriginal brethren. We invaded Iraq to rid the world of weapons of mass destruction. No, sorry, to rescue Iraqis from a brutal dictator.
Meanwhile, Islamic State isn’t a consequence of this blackwhite invasion, but because Islam is a thoughtcrime that has ensnared 1.6 billion people. Our refugee policy is to save unpeople from drowning and to protect Australia from ungood illegals.
Welfare recipients will be tested for drugs to ensure they receive the best possible treatment to cure them of their addiction. Future miniplenty budgets will provide such currently unavailable facilities. Mutual obligation is for Proles only, and wealth is doubleplusgood.
Delfina Manor, Benalla

Punishing ALP voters
With the Coalition ignoring Williamstown shipyard in the big spend on navy updates one is reminded of Maggie Thatcher’s financial punishment of Scotland and Northern Britain for being mainly non-Conservative voters.
Andrew Wood, Moonee Ponds

Carrot better than stick
Under the conservative governments of Margaret Thatcher (1979-90) and John Major (1990-97), the number of Britons in poverty doubled, as did violent crime rates. Registered drug addicts rose from fewer than 3000 in 1980 to 43,000 in 1996, with a growing demographic of young, unemployed, unskilled, disadvantaged youth.
Australia has followed the same neoliberal trajectory, with predictably high social costs. Predictable, also, is the focus now on the individual instead of the holistic context. Portugal has radically reduced drug problems, including crime, through health policy.
Large-scale American research has found abused and neglected children are, as adults, 4600 per cent more likely to take intravenous drugs and...
given that 24 per cent of Australian children are growing up in poverty? Or will billion-dollar prisons continue to mushroom? Barbara Chapman, Hawthorn