



## Stat Report 2014/06

### Royal Commission into union corruption

You will have heard quite a lot of commotion this week about the Abbott Government launching a Royal Commission into union corruption, following reports about allegations of corruption in the building and construction industry. It's also the same excuse the Abbott Government is using to re-introduce the Australian Building & Construction Commission (ABCC) which had extraordinary powers to call and compel witness to give evidence under the threat of being jailed.

The Royal Commission's terms of reference are very broad and far reaching but it has been charged with investigating the integrity of the financial management of unions, the accountability of officers and whether any unions have been used for any form of "unlawful purpose".

Unfortunately there has been no suggestion from the Abbott Government that it will also investigate corruption or unlawful behaviour by businesses or employers; or indeed the industry lobbying groups established by big business like the Australian Industry Group or the Business Council of Australia.

Remarkably there has been no acknowledgement in all of the ensuing shouting about the merits of the royal commission that the union movement has long taken a very dim view of corruption and unlawful behaviour. Indeed the Australian union movement has long encouraged, supported and promoted training and development for union leaders about financial responsibilities and governance and management of unions.

Needless to say that there is no room in the union movement for corruption and unlawful behaviour and activities, but a royal commission will never be the answer.

Members of this Union were proactive about addressing allegations of corruption in the HSU. In June 2009 more than 250 members wrote and petitioned the then Industrial Relations Commission of Australia to investigate the allegations of financial impropriety which had been made against Craig Thomson.

The last Royal Commission launched into unions was the Cole Royal Commission in 2001/2002, which recommended the establishment of the ABCC. But when you really look at what this royal commission achieved you quickly discover the answer is...not much for the \$70 million it cost to run.

The Cole Royal Commission's investigations led to not one single prosecution of a union official or delegate. Yet the media routinely dragged the names of individuals and their unions through the mud. Innocent people were smeared and had their lives shattered all for an investigation that never prosecuted a single person but delivered the verdict the then Howard Government wanted to hear – building and construction unions needed to special laws to undermine their ability to represent their members.

Like so much from the Abbott Government, the Royal Commission is another distraction from the issues facing our nation including rising unemployment; proper funding of the health care system: strengthening Medicare: ensuring the proper funding and resourcing of schools:

developing industry plans; and the biggest challenge of all, taking action on climate change.

The Royal Commission's purpose looks to be far from its stated aim and more about damaging Australian unions and facilitating attacks by employers on the wages and conditions of workers including professionals.

The Union strongly opposes the Royal Commission as a waste of taxpayer's money.

Watch this space for more about the Royal Commission.

## Keep Blood Safe – Week of Action

Donors + Scientists = Safe Blood.

It's a winning formula but it's being jeopardized by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service's plans to cut the number of scientists testing and processing blood and blood products.

To make sure we get the message out to as many people as possible, we're going to be handing out leaflets at **City Loop train stations in Melbourne each morning from February 17 to 21 from 8am to 9am.**

Tuesday = Melbourne Central station – meet under the big clock

Wednesday = Parliament station – meet on the steps of Parliament House

Thursday = Flinders St station – meet under the clocks

Friday = Southern Cross station – meet on the corner of Spencer and Collins Sts

Together we can make sure Donors + Scientists = Safe Blood remains a winning formula.

Ready to make an impact? Come and join us for the Keep Blood Safe Week of Action – we'll be wearing red t-shirts so we'll be easy to find.

Make sure you sign the petition and let your family and friends know about it too:  
<http://bit.ly/KeepBloodSafe>

You'll find great graphics to share through social media at  
<http://www.facebook.com/KeepBloodSafe>

## 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples

Last week marked the sixth anniversary of the National Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples.

In a moment of national unity we came together to apologies for the wrongs of the past and commit ourselves to close the gap of disadvantage between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

You can watch the apology here: <http://bit.ly/1fZWMCO>

Six years on, while some gains have been made, there is still a lot to do. An important step is recognition in the Constitution for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As former Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said:

“The Apology was about getting it right for the past. Constitutional recognition is about getting it right for tomorrow.”

You can play your part in the movement for recognition by signing up at:  
<http://www.recognise.org.au/>

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# Don't let the Napthine Government silence Victorians

The Victorian Government plans to further curtail the ability of Victorians to protest and picket over issues of concern. This is a very serious development and a significant assault on the rights of Victorians to peacefully assemble and to protest the actions of the government.



**NO PROTESTS DURING NAPTIME.**

**RALLY 10AM  
TUES 18TH  
FEB 2014**



GATHER: TRADES HALL  
CNR LYGON & VICTORIA ST  
MARCH: TO PARLIAMENT  
LEARN MORE:  
WEAREUNION.ORG.AU



Just like the federal government, Napthine's government is also critical of any scrutiny it receives and is clearly aimed at making sure unions and community organisations are not able to voice the concerns of people in public spaces.

To make sure the Victorian Liberal National government knows that Victorians won't take this attack on our democracy lying down; the Union will be attending the rally on 18 February at 10am.

**Join the Union's contingent at 9:45am outside the Union office at 62 Lygon St.**

Details for the rally are:

**Date: Tuesday Feb 18**

**Time: 10am**

**Location: Trades Hall, marching to Parliament House**

**Wear: Blue or White**

There is also a petition to sign and it can be found at  
[http://www.weareunion.org.au/napthines\\_silencing\\_act](http://www.weareunion.org.au/napthines_silencing_act)

## Union Job Reps Training

The Union strongly values its Job Reps as an essential part of what we do every day – protect and advance the industrial and professional interests of members. As a Job Rep you are the local connection between the Union and members.

To help you better understand your role, the Union provides training and information sessions.

These sessions will help to keep you informed about changes to relevant laws, what's happening in the Union and how to be an effective Job Rep.

The Union also provides opportunities throughout the year to meet up with other Job Reps.

The next Job Rep training day is on **Friday 21 March at 9am for a 9:30am start to 5pm.**

As a Job Rep you can attend training days and activities organised by the Union without losing pay if the training is on a day you would normally be rostered to work.

If you've ever thought of being a Job Rep then this training day is open to you too. If you're interested in being a Job Rep please contact the Union.

**Please contact Alex on 9623 9623 or at [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au) to register your attendance.**

## Your Union is on Facebook

Keep up to date with what's happening by liking us on Facebook

[Medical Scientists Association of Victoria](#) | [Victorian Psychologists Association Inc](#) | [Association of Hospital Pharmacists](#)

## Benefits for Union Members

As a union member, you can take advantage of the collective buying power of more than 1.9 million members to get discounts on a great range of products and services. ACTU Member Connect makes sure the products and services are from companies you can rely on to deliver high-quality products with reliable customer service.

### **ME Bank – Resolutions for a richer new year**

The New Year is a chance to turn a new leaf, break old habits and start fresh ones - and setting a few financial resolutions can add wealth and prosperity to your 2014.

#### Grow some savings

We'd all like to have more money in the bank, and building savings is a lot easier when we set a clear target, like \$50 each week. Next, open a dedicated high interest savings account to give your savings the benefit of healthy interest returns.

#### Reduce card debt

Credit cards are one of the most expensive types of credit available with rates topping 20% p.a. on some cards. Switching your balance to a low rate card could see you save in interest in the first year alone.

[Read on for more financial resolutions.](#)

### **The ACTU/ME Footy Tipping Competition is back for 2014**

A reminder for union footy tipsters that the ACTU/ME Bank AFL & NRL footy tipping competition is happening again in 2014. The NRL season begins on Thursday 6th March and

## Keep Blood Safe Hotline

Do you have a story about how changes at the Red Cross Blood Service are already affecting your work, or could likely affect your work?

Send them to [alexs@msav.org.au](mailto:alexs@msav.org.au) or call 0432 364 515 - we'll make sure you remain anonymous.

**Sign the petition at:**  
<http://bit.ly/KeepBloodSafe>

Join the campaign at:  
<http://www.facebook.com/KeepBloodSafe>

## Share STAT Report

Is there a copy of STAT Report on your Union noticeboard or in your staff room?

If not print out a copy and leave it on the noticeboard or in the staff room for your colleagues.



the AFL kicks off on Friday 14th March. There is a total of \$2000 in prizes up for grabs with the highest tipster in each competition winning a \$1,000 EveryDay Transaction Account.

So union members make sure you go to [www.footytips.com.au](http://www.footytips.com.au) to either register as a new tipster or reactivate your footy tipping profile from previous years and then click on the links below for either comp.

Handy tip: If you're reactivating your tipping profile remember to use your username NOT your email address to log in.

[AFL Tipping Comp](#)

[NRL Tipping Comp](#)

[Click here for full competition details.](#)

There is more information about a range of other benefits union members can access at <http://www.memberconnect.com.au/> or you can call ACTU Member Connect on 1300 362 223.

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#)

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