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HD **Shorten says royal commission a partisan witch-hunt**
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ELECTORAL FUNDING

Opposition Leader Bill Shorten has labelled a royal commission into union corruption a political witch-hunt, while warning he would take a zero-tolerance approach to union corruption.

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In his first public comments since a Fairfax Media investigation uncovered revelations of corruption and links between the construction union and organised crime, Mr Shorten suggested the Abbott government had undermined the work of law enforcement agencies by pushing for a royal commission.

The Coalition promised before the election to launch a judicial inquiry into the Australian Workers Union slush fund affair but is now poised to launch a royal commission with sweeping powers that will investigate more broadly the use of slush funds.

Mr Shorten brushed aside suggestions that Labor was too close to unions such as the Construction, Forestry, **Mining** and **Energy** Union, which is at the centre of the revelations and which donated \$618,398 to the ALP in the 2012-13 financial year.

"When we talk about election donations, why don't you ask me about the money being given by big tobacco to the Liberal Party?" Mr Shorten said. "No one, it doesn't matter who you are, can support corruption for breaking the law. Absolutely not. There should be zero tolerance of any criminal activity, in trade unions or corporate Australia.

"As for the idea that the police are not up to their job, as for the idea that existing authorities are not up to their job and we need a royal commission, I have zero tolerance for criminality in the union movement."

On Monday, the Australian Electoral Commission published the 2012-13 annual financial returns from political parties and donors, showing Labor's total revenue was \$54.7 **million** last year.

Total receipts declared by all ALP branches, including from the federal branch, was \$33,512,267.

Of the receipts that were declared, unions contributed \$5,418,419 to the party through donations and other payments. The Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association gave the most of any union to the ALP, handing them a declared \$1,219,057.

The Australian Manufacturing Workers Union was next, at \$749,626, followed by United Voice (\$674,737), the CFMEU (\$618,398) and the AWU (\$599,235).

The Victorian Labor Party also reaped \$3.65 **million** from the **sale** of some of its property holdings to little-known **Chinese** investor Zhongfu Investments.

ALP Victorian secretary Noah Carroll confirmed the \$3.65 **million** came from the **sale** of some but not all of Victorian Labor's property.

"It's not a donation, it's a transaction," he said.

CO tauwku : The Australian Workers' Union
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