



Top CFMEU official quits over IVF funding scandal

Ewin Hannan

The national president of the militant construction union, Dave Hanna, resigned after an investigation found he obtained thousands of dollars from employers to pay for the IVF treatment of a union organiser and his partner.

Mr Hanna, who has claimed he resigned for health reasons, quit last month as national and Queensland president of the Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union after a union investigation found he procured funds from two subcontractors to contribute to the cost of IVF treatment undergone by organiser Mick Myles.

The investigation, a copy of which has been obtained by *The Australian Financial Review*, found that Mr Hanna asked organisers in March this year to obtain funds from two subcontractors, DB Scaffolding and Rigging Australia, and Global HR Pty Ltd.

In April, DB Scaffolding paid \$1000 and Global HR paid \$2000 into an account operated by the Builders Labourers Federation Charity Foundation. Four withdrawals totalling \$13,072 were made from the account between February and April this year for the IVF treatment.

The investigation, undertaken by union official Leo Skourdoumbis, found it was clearly apparent that Mr Hanna had been involved in organisers obtaining funds from subcontractors for the benefit of Mr Myles.

"While the procurement of the funds was not for Mr Hanna's personal benefit, I am satisfied that Mr Hanna's conduct was seriously inappropriate," Mr Skourdoumbis said.

He said the two companies had "industrial dealings" with the union branch and Mr Hanna made the request to "procure a personal benefit for an official of the branch".

Dave Noonan, the national secretary of the CFMEU's construction division, said on Tuesday that Mr Hanna agreed to resign following the findings. Mr Myles and another organiser, Kevin Griffin, have also resigned.

Mr Hanna, who is being investigated by the trade union royal commission over alleged secret commissions for the construction of his luxury family

Under scrutiny

Former CFMEU president Dave Hanna's alleged corruption



Mr Hanna is also being investigated by the trade union royal commission over alleged secret commissions relating to the construction of this luxury family house in Brisbane.

Date	Recipient	Amount
24 February 2015	Queensland Fertility Group	\$7,860.00
17 March 2015	Queensland Fertility Group	\$780.00
17 March 2015	Anaesthetics	\$272.00

Above: Payments from union fund to organiser, Mick Myles

Right: Former CFMEU national president Dave Hanna and Queensland president Anastacia Palszczuk



SOURCE: FINANCIAL REVIEW

house, has previously told the *Financial Review* that he had taken "no benefits" and was involved in "no mismanagement" of any union fund.

He claimed last month that he stepped down from the union because of health reasons arising from a motorcycle accident.

The CFMEU said on Tuesday that it

could not say if the \$3000 had been repaid to the two companies.

Mr Skourdoumbis was appointed by CFMEU national secretary, Michael O'Connor, to conduct the investigation following a complaint by the union's Queensland secretary, Michael Ravbar.

According to Mr Skourdoumbis, Mr Ravbar said Mr Hanna told him in

Key points

An inquiry has found that union leader Dave Hanna acted inappropriately.

Two subbies paid \$3000 for an organiser's IVF treatment.

Mr Hanna says he resigned because of ill-health.

about March this year that he intended to ask employers for donations for Mr Myles. Mr Ravbar said he told Mr Hanna, "Don't do it".

Mr Hanna said he asked Mr Griffin to go to "DB and GHR" to ask them to donate to the BLF Charity Foundation for "Mick's IVF".

But Mr Skourdoumbis said the "weight of evidence" suggested Mr Hanna met three organisers in his office and asked them to obtain funds.

He said DB Scaffolding manager Reece Trembarth and Global HR manager Jamie McHugh confirmed they were separately asked by Mr Griffin to make donations.

Mr Skourdoumbis said Mr Trembarth and Mr McHugh agreed to pay the money "without any expectation of any return favour".

In finding that Mr Hanna had engaged in "seriously inappropriate conduct", Mr Skourdoumbis said he had "taken into account that Mr Hanna did not procure the funds for his personal benefit, and that both DB and Global HR did not expect any return benefit".

"However, whilst these are relevant considerations, in my view, it does not fully mitigate the seriousness of the breach," he said.

"This was not an instance of Mr Hanna procuring a donation for a general charitable cause.

"Rather, the benefit was procured from an employer with whom the branch has industrial dealings, with the intention and result that it be applied for the specific benefit of another branch official."

Mr Hanna, DB Scaffolding and Global HR did not respond to requests for comment about the investigation.



Dita Von Teese in Wheels & Dollbaby.

Dita cardigan keeps Wheels right up there

Julie-anne Sprague

It's a simple cardigan. Yet some women have paid \$800 for one. For Wheels & Dollbaby founder Melanie Greensmith, it's an unexpected but welcome endorsement of her almost 30-year-old brand.

The Dita cardigan, a collaboration between Wheels & Dollbaby and Greensmith's friend Dita Von Teese, was first produced a decade ago.

Re-released over the years in varying colours, the cardigan has become a fashionista collectable.

Ms Greensmith said her cardigans had retailed for as much as \$800 on eBay. This week, one seller was offering a worn red version for \$399. Another was selling their dusty pink cardigan from \$300, while bidding for a worn emerald green version also kicked off at \$300. Wheels & Dollbaby sells them for about \$190.

"If a girl has all the colours but one, she will seek out the one she doesn't have," Greensmith says. "It amazes me. [the collaboration] has been a lot of fun but I didn't expect that."

Von Teese arrived in Perth on Tuesday for the start of the Telstra Perth Fashion Festival, which opened by showcasing 33 Poets, Toni Maticevski and Yang Li. Von Teese will walk the Perth catwalk on Sunday to close the festival. She will be wearing Wheels & Dollbaby.

Wheels & Dollbaby has become a cult brand. As well as Von Teese, it's also worn by Katy Perry, Scarlett Johansson and Nicole Richie.

Greensmith laments a widening gap in the fashion industry, with fewer middle range brands as the market diverges between high-end and ultra-cheap. She thinks the ubiquitous offerings from the fast fashion industry or, as she calls them, disposable brands such as Zara, H&M and Uniqlo are "boring".

Zara sells cardigans for about \$30. "I think it's really boring," Greensmith says. "It's just throw-away stuff."

"I've noticed it's either super high end or it's really, really cheap," Greensmith says. "There's fewer mid-range brands like us."

Brands offering cheaper clothes typically use garment factories in countries such as Bangladesh to keep costs low.

Greensmith insists on manufacturing about 90 per cent of her brand in Australia although she knows she can do it much more cheaply overseas.

"We are lucky because we are very branded. If you are doing the same stuff that Zara can do but cheaper, you are in trouble," she says.

Greensmith says Wheels & Dollbaby produces knits in China because Australia has no knitting mills.

Hayne fan warning: NFL has 11 mins of real action

John McDuling

Jarryd Hayne took to the field for his first official NFL game on Tuesday, so more Australian eyes than usual were fixated on the United States' biggest spectator sport.

It was a mixed evening for the former rugby league star. He fumbled the first punt that came his way but went on to carry the ball four times to gain a respectable 13 yards for his team, the San Francisco 49ers.

But for many Australians who tuned in, the whole thing probably seemed a bit confusing, and even underwhelming. That's because, in contrast to Australia's high-octane domestic codes of football, where the action is for the most part continuous, American football involves a lot of stoppages. That is part of the beauty of the sport, which is a bit like a violent game of chess, involving grand strategy

and a lot of choreography. It is also extremely common in American football for the clock to be running down while (seemingly) nothing is happening.

The *Wall Street Journal* calculated a few years ago that there are only 11 minutes of actual action in an NFL game. That is well below the amount of action in other types of football.

As the business news site Quartz has also pointed out, the average NFL play lasts just four seconds.

An NFL game stops repeatedly - whenever a tackle is made, for example. But the clock only stops in certain situations, such as when there is an incomplete pass, when a player runs out of bounds or when a team calls a timeout. When a team is leading, they can deliberately try to run out time to preserve their lead.

Frequent stoppages also help explain why the NFL is such a formidable

Hayne pain

Actual playing time (minutes)

NFL	11
Rugby union	35
Rugby league	50
Soccer	58

Official game length (minutes)

NFL	60
Rugby union	80
Rugby league	80
Soccer	90

SOURCE: FINANCIAL REVIEW



Jarryd Hayne

broadcast property, beloved by TV networks, with one of the biggest rights deals on the planet. These constant stoppages enable US TV networks to stuff their NFL broadcasts with lots of commercial breaks.

It's just one of the many aspects of the NFL that makes it so baffling to outsiders.

The good news is that once you get used to it, NFL games can be a lot of fun to watch.