

## Abbott gives commitment

PRIME Minister-elect Tony Abbott has confirmed his commitment to the royal commission into child sex abuse after victims' groups expressed concerns about the commission's future under his government.

A spokesman for Mr Abbott's office said "the incoming government has the same level of commitment to the royal commission" as the Gillard and Rudd governments.

"As a community, we must have zero tolerance for the sexual abuse of children," Mr Abbott said.

"Wherever abuse has occurred, it must be tackled and it must be tackled vigorously, openly and transparently. Victims must be allowed to heal, and perpetrators must be brought to justice."

In November last year, Mr Abbott announced his support for a royal commission before then prime minister Julia Gillard announced one.

Paterson MP Bob Baldwin said it was critical that the truth about perpetrators and systemic failings that allowed sexual abuse of children was exposed.

The government was committed to the inquiry, he said.

"Once you start a royal commission, it's pretty hard to shut down."

He encouraged victims and people with knowledge of sexual abuse of children in institutions to come forward.

