

Congratulations to Tony Abbott for placing child protection first (Bishop at odds with Abbott). Mr Abbott is right that disclosure of sexual assaults to priests during confession should not be exempt by law. All members of the community have a duty to report abuse.

The Royal Commission into child sexual abuse is long overdue. For those of us who have worked in youth welfare so long, we know that the Wood Royal Commission of the 1990's investigating corruption and pedophile networks only touched the tip of the ice berg.

Then Upper House MP and a dear friend, Franca Arena AM worked courageously to be a voice for those whose voices had been ignored for so long. Franca spoke out for many victims of child abuse. Sadly, Franca faced much retribution for her efforts on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse and persecution from some sections of the media and from those with a strong desire to shut her up.

Revelations that have occasioned this recent Royal Commission not only vindicate Franca Arena's calls for years for a proper investigation into child sexual abuse but also show how often the media and others can mislead against those in society who speak out about issues such as pedophilia and corruption.

With these recent revelations the community must always be vigilante in considering the "whole" story behind attacks on people speaking out and why they are being targeted.

I pay tribute to Franca Arena AM, the victims and many others who have spoken out to protect children and stop corruption.

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