

FOR MEDIA

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Member for Rankin

10 March 2010

OPINION – The reporter

There's been a lot of talk in Canberra in the last week about being sorry.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd reckons the Government could have done a few things better and I am sure he's right.

Mind you, there has been a lot of good stuff, like keeping Australia safe from the global recession and the \$30 increase in the single age pension.

There are extra places at uni for doctors and nurses. A 50 per cent increase in health funding. The teen dental plan.

Improving our school buildings and providing more computers to schools for our kids. And remember to keep your receipts for the education tax refund.

But the PM's comments have been food for thought. What have we all done wrong? What do we regret?

I was asked this on Brisbane radio last week. The thing that sprang to mind was the stamp I nicked from the collection of the local GP in the country town where I grew up.

I was about nine, and the guilt ate away at me. Finally I returned the stamp and even went to confession.

I'm not the only one who feels bad about childhood wrong behaviour. We were talking about this in the office last week and one of my staff admitted she had stolen a necklace with the words I Love You from a country department store to send to her teen pop idol.

He never responded and she still feels bad about what she did.

So, what should we do when we have made a blue?

I think the best thing to do is to fess up and learn from it. That way you can get on with life.

It is true that you can't do anything about the past and what you have to concentrate on is the present and the future.

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We all make mistakes. It's how you learn from them and pick yourself up and get on with your life that shows what type of person you are.

It's not a bad exercise to sit down and think about mistakes you have made; but it's pointless flogging yourself over them.

While we are trying to be gentler and kinder to ourselves, by acknowledging that no-one is perfect, let's extend that generosity to others.