

Maclean(Gannon), Christine

From: Rebecca Blair
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2007 3:49 PM
To: Regulation Review - External Queries (SM)
Subject: changes to the working alone regulation

Hello – Thank you for allowing me to respond to the proposed changes in this regulation. My name is Rebecca Blair, and I am making this submission as a teacher and as a mother. I am strongly in support of changes to the regulations which will require employers to ensure that there are two people working during late shift work, or use methods such as locked doors or bullet proof barriers to protect workers.

As a high school teacher, I have become aware of young people working in unsafe environments because an employer does not ensure their safety when they work late shifts. It is not just the students in my classrooms who are at risk, it is also the parents of the young children who are working in these dangerous conditions as well. The regulations can easily reflect the need for two workers, or for barriers. The safety of workers is everyone's responsibility, and regulations should reflect the concerns of the public. Many occupations require workers to wear a helmet – a co-worker or a barrier need to be required protection for

My own son has worked in gas stations where "gas and dash" were a common event. He was asked to pay the loss to the employer, and even though I informed him that this was against the law, he paid the money from his pay back to the employer. How wrong is that? Young people have given more than money – we are far too familiar with Grant's sacrifice. Not one more family should ever feel the pain that his family has had to suffer. It is untenable that profits are placed before safety.

I am in support of regulations which would demand "pay before you pump". Such a simple change to ensure that workers are safe – to use the vernacular, it is a "no brainer" to ask you that regulations address these concerns. Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments.

2007/07/11