

Senator CASH: What were the reasons given by the Minister for requesting the exemption?

Answer:

In a letter of 22 May to the Prime Minister, Minister O'Connor gave the following reasons for seeking an exemption from undertaking a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS), relating to the introduction of a Labour Market Testing (LMT) requirement in the Subclass 457 (Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (Subclass 457 visa) program:

'Given the exceptional circumstances relating to the urgency of the reforms to the Temporary Sponsored Work Visa Program; the need to realign the program to be used only where a genuine skills shortage exists; and the critical timeframe to finalise the Bill for introduction into Parliament, I am seeking your approval to exempt the LMT measure from the RIS process.'