

## **SENATE QUESTION**

**QUESTION NUMBER:** 3146  
**DATE ASKED:** 19 February 2021

### **Question**

SENATOR KITCHING asked the Minister representing the Minister for Government Services, upon notice, on 19 February 2021—

In the 2019-20 financial year, of the total welfare payments recovered by Taskforce Integrity, how many matters does this relate to. Could details of each case be provided including dates, amount recovered.

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### **Answer**

Senator Ruston – The Minister for Government Services, the Hon Stuart Robert MP, has provided the following answer to the honourable Senator’s question:

In the 2019-20 financial year, Services Australia recovered \$9,225,907.56 in welfare payments through Taskforce Integrity.

In the 2019-20 financial year, of the \$9,225,907.56 recovered in welfare payments

- 352 customers paid in full.
- At 30 June 2020, 1,460 customers had entered into a payment arrangement—excluding the 352 customers that paid in full.

Preparation of a response to the request for details of each case including dates and amounts recovered is an unreasonable diversion of Agency resources. It is unreasonable because the information requested is not readily available. Preparation of this information would require manual review and cross-referencing of numerous datasets, which would constitute an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.