

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

5,698 of 7,360

Response rate:

77%



Exploring your results



Take time to understand your report. Consider your response rate to determine how representative your results are of the views of your colleagues.



Most questions in this report have information about the proportion of colleagues responding positively, neutrally or negatively.



Identify the areas where you are performing well. These will tend to be high results which are notably above any comparative results. Celebrate these results.



Identify areas that need improvement. These tend to be the low results, which are notably below comparisons.



Generally a difference of -/+ 5 percentage points is worthy of attention, but the size of the group is important. Changes in small groups can be unreliable.

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Employee Engagement: Say, Stay, Strive



Employee Engagement

Employee engagement is more than simply job satisfaction or commitment to an organisation. It is the extent to which employees are motivated, inspired and enabled to improve an organisation's outcomes.

	Your Employee Engagement	Response scal	e	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	Index score				+2	+2	+2	+2
	Overall, I am satisfied with my job	80	12 8	80%	+2	+3	+2	+2
Say	I am proud to work in my agency	88	10	88%	+5 0	+6 🚱	+5 🔂	+5
ίδ	I would recommend my agency as a good place to work	74	17 9	74 %	+7 0	-3	-6♥	-6 ©
	I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of my agency	90	8	90%	+3	+2	+2	+2
Stay	I feel a strong personal attachment to my agency	72	20 8	72 %	+4	+7 6	+9 ₽	+7 •
St	I feel committed to my agency's goals	90	8	90%	+3	+2	+3	+3
	I suggest ideas to improve our way of doing things	91	8	91%	+1	+4	+1	+2
Strive	I am happy to go the 'extra mile' at work when required	93		93%	0	+2	+1	+1
Str	I work beyond what is required in my job to help my agency achieve its objectives	87	11	87 %	-2	+9 🚱	+96	+10 🐼
	My agency really inspires me to do my best work every day	69	21 10	69%	+86	+2	+2	+2

Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





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Leadership - Immediate Supervisor



Immediate Supervisor

The Immediate
Supervisor Index
assesses how
employees view the
leadership
behaviours of their
immediate
supervisor in line
with the APS
Leadership
Capability
Framework

	Your 76 Immediate Supervisor	Response scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	Index score				+1	-1	-1	-1
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	79	13 8	79 %	0	-1	-2	-2
risor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	77	15 8	77 %	0	-3	-3	-3
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	81	11 8	81%	0	-2	-3	-3
ıediate	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	81	13	81%	+1	-1	-1	-1
<u> </u>	My supervisor is invested in my development	77	15 9	77 %	+1	-1	-2	-2
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	89	7	89%	+2	+1	-1	0
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	78	14 8	78 %	+1	-1	0	0
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	76	17	76 %	+1	-1	-2	-2
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	83	11	83%	0	-1	-1	-1
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	80	13	80%	+1	-1	-2	-2
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage p	oints less tha	n comparator		Positive N	leutral Negative	======================================

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

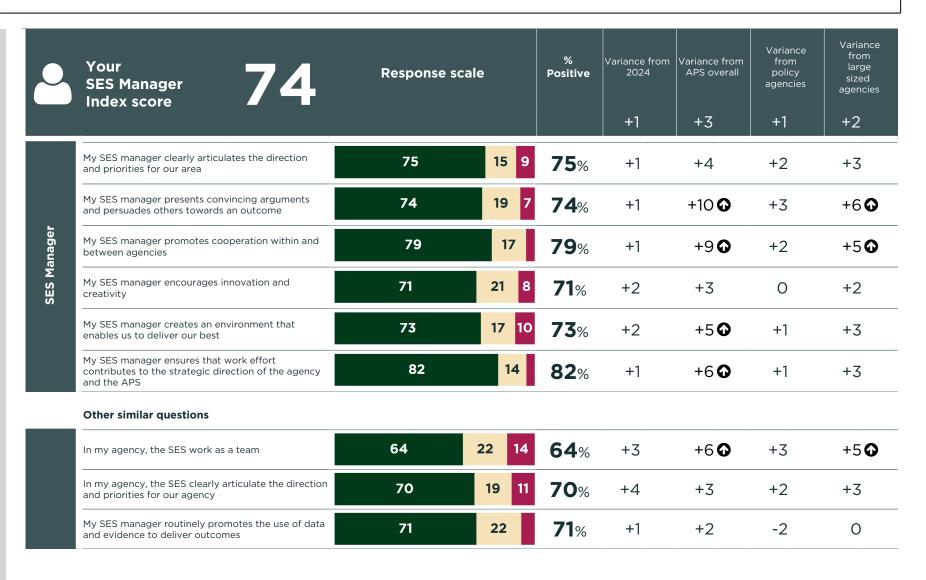
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Leadership - SES Manager



SES Manager

The SES Manager Index assesses how employees view the leadership behaviours of their immediate SES manager in line with the APS Leadership Capability Framework.



Key • At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator • At least 5 percentage points less than comparator



Communication and change



Communication

The Communication Index measures communication at the individual, group and agency level.

P	Your 70 Index score	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies -1	Variance from large sized agencies
Communication	My supervisor communicates effectively	79 11 10	79 %	0	-2	-2	-2
	My SES manager communicates effectively	76 15 9	76 %	+1	+5♠	+1	+3
	Internal communication within my agency is effective	58 23 19	58%	+6 🚱	-3	-5♥	-3

Change

Effective communication is an important part of any change process. Note these questions do not contribute to the above index score.

Other similar questions

	When changes occur, the impacts are communicated well within my workgroup	65	19 16	65 %	+1	-2	-2	-2
Change	Staff are consulted about change at work	49	35 16	49%	+2	-3	-3	-3
	Change is managed well in my agency	45	30 25	45%	+7 	-3	-3	-1

Key At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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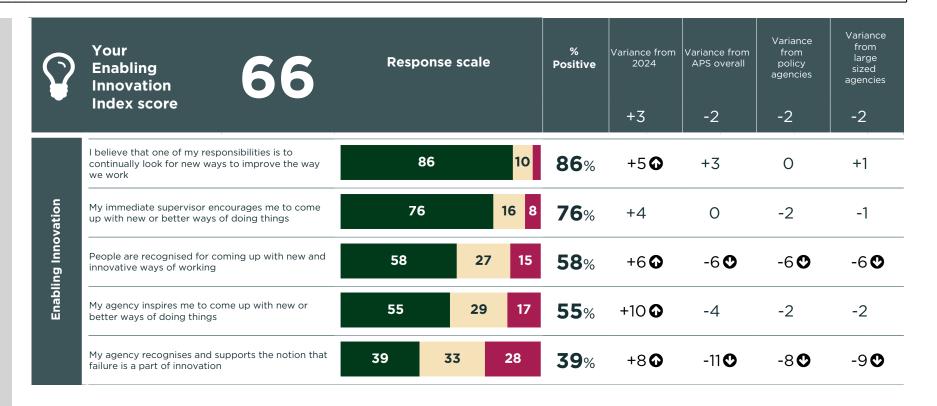
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Enabling Innovation



Enabling Innovation

The Enabling Innovation Index assesses both whether employees feel willing and able to be innovative, and whether their agency has a culture which enables them to be SO.



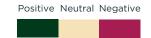
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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





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Wellbeing Policies and Support



Wellbeing

The Wellbeing Policies and Support Index provides a measure of the practical and cultural elements that allow for a sustainable and healthy working environment.



Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



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Wellbeing

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		15%	+1	+3	+2	+2
Very good		38 %	0	+3	+2	+2
Good		35 %	-1	-2	-1	-1
Fair		10%	0	-3	-2	-2
Poor		2 %	0	-1	-1	-1
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		19%	-80	+2	+2	+2
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		42%	0	+3	+4	+3
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		33 %	+7♠	-4	-2	-2
Slightly below capacity – available for more work		5 %	+1	-1	-3	-3
Well below capacity - not enough work		1%	0	0	-1	-1

Key



0

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator



Wellbeing

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		4%	-1	-1	0	0
Often		25 %	-4	+2	+3	+3
Sometimes		51 %	+3	+1	0	0
Rarely		18%	+1	-2	-3	-3
Never		2%	0	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		7 %	-1	-1	+1	+1
To a large extent		22%	-1	+2	+5 ♠	+5♠
Somewhat		41%	0	+2	+2	+2
To a small extent		22%	+1	-2	-5♥	-5♥
To a very small extent		8%	+1	-1	-3	-3
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		7 %	-1	0	0	0
Agree		21%	-3	0	+1	+1
Neither agree nor disagree		32 %	0	0	+1	+1
Disagree		32 %	+2	+1	-2	-2
Strongly disagree		8%	+1	0	0	0

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

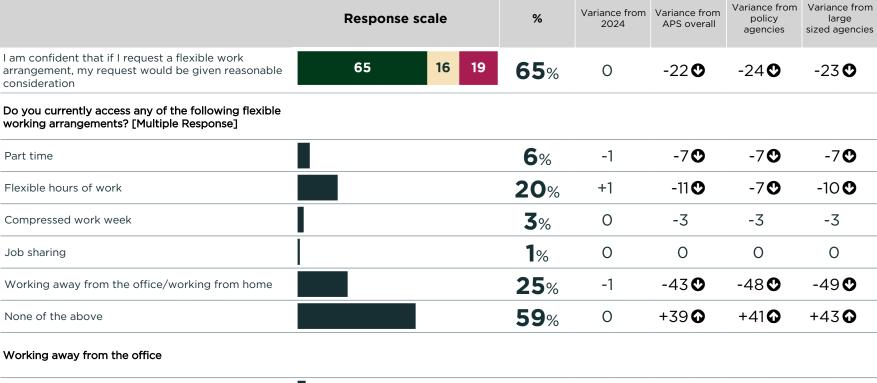
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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

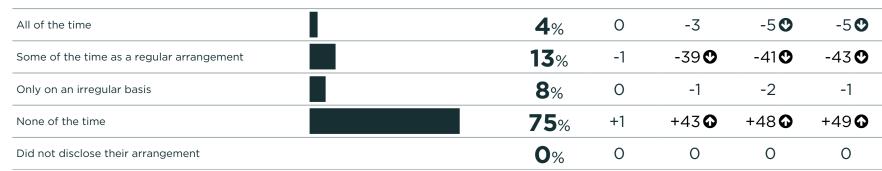
Key

Flexible work





The working away from the office responses present how often employees worked away from the office/worked from home during a usual working week. It includes the responses for all employees, not just those who indicated they accessed working from home as a flexible working arrangement.



Key At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator • At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



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Working in the APS

	Response s	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	70	17 13	70 %	+5♠	+1	0	0
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	76	17	76 %	+1	0	-2	-2
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	77	14 9	77 %	+4	-4	-5♥	-5♥
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	89	10	89%	+3	0	0	0
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	69	23 8	69%	+6♠	0	+1	+1
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	84	11	84%	+1	0	-2	-2
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	83	11	83%	-	-1	-2	-2
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	89	7	89%	-	0	-1	-1
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	77	14 10	77 %	-1	-3	-4	-4
If you make a mistake in my workgroup, it tends to be held against you (reverse scored: positive scores represent those who disagreed, or strongly disagreed with this statement)	59	25 16	59 %	-	-8♥	-12 ♥	-12♥

Key

At least 5 pe

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



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Job satisfaction

	Response scale	% Positi	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	71	14 71 %	é +1	+2	-2	-1
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	68 10	6 16 68	_% +4	+2	-8 👁	-4
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	72	15 13 72 9	6 O	-13 🛡	-15 ♥	-15♥
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	88	88 88	% +3	+2	+2	+2

Clarity and autonomy

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
I understand how my role contributes to achieving an outcome for the Australian public	93	93%	0	0	+1	0
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	85 11	85%	+5 ☆	+1	+3	+2
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	69 22	69%	+3	+1	-5 O	-4
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	74 15 1	74 %	+1	+2	-1	0

Key

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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



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Performance

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
In the last month, please rate your workgroup's overall performance						
Excellent		27 %	-2	+2	+2	+2
Very good		58%	+3	+2	+1	+1
Average		13%	0	-3	-2	-2
Below average		2%	0	0	-1	0
Well below average		0%	0	0	0	0

	Response so	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	policy	Variance from large sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	82	11 8	82 %	+2	+3	+2	+2
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	63	17 20	63 %	+6 ♦	+3	+4	+4
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	75	15 10	75 %	+1	0	+1	0
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	83	9 8	83%	+1	+4	+2	+3
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	61	29 10	61%	0	+2	+4	+4

Key At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

Retention



Employees who indicated that they wanted to leave their current position as soon as possible or within the next 12 months were asked what their plans were.

Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts about working in your current position?					
I want to leave my position as soon as possible	8%	-2	0	-1	0
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	25 %	-1	+3	-1	+2
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	40%	+2	+1	-3	-3
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	27 %	+1	-4	+5 ♠	+1
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	2%	-1	-2	-1	-1
I am pursuing another position within my agency	58%	+ 7 ♦	+12 🐼	+16 🐼	+16 ☆
I am pursuing a position in another agency	13%	-4	-12 🗸	-16 ♡	-14 •
I am pursuing work outside the APS	10%	-2	+1	+2	+1
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	2%	-1	0	-1	-1
Other	15%	+1	+2	0	0

Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

Retention



Employees who indicated that they were pursing another position within their agency, another agency, or outside the APS were asked for the primary reason behind their desire to leave. They could select one response from a list of 18 items.

Only the five reasons for leaving with the highest proportion of responses are presented here. These may vary between agencies, work units and with results for the APS overall, therefore those comparisons are not included.

Resp	oonse scale %	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your current p responses):	osition? (5 highest				
I am looking to further my skills in another area	17%	-	-	-	-
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity	17%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change	9%	-	-	-	-
I have achieved all I can in my current position	9%	-	-	-	-
I want to live elsewhere within Australia or overseas	6%	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

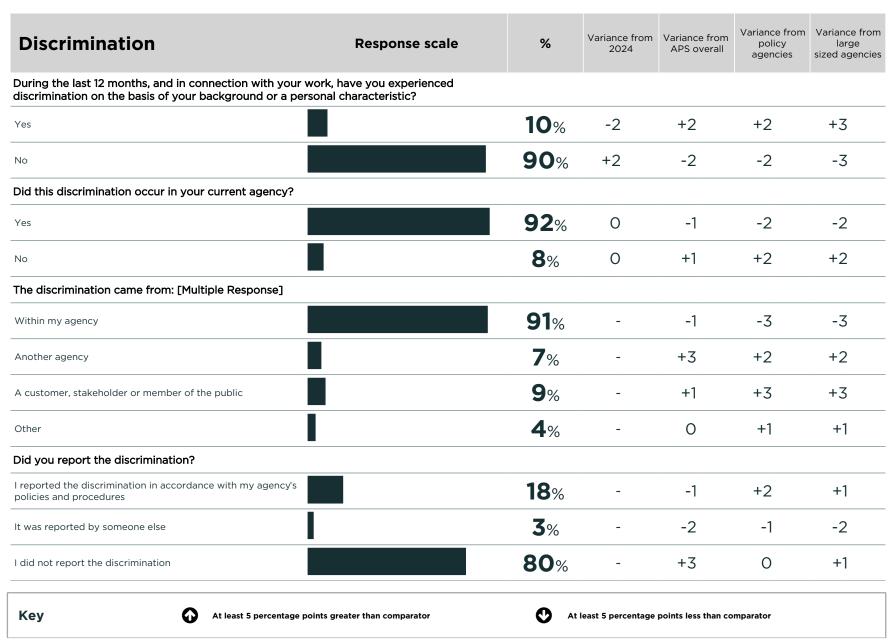


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Unacceptable behaviour



Employees who had perceived discrimination in the last 12 months in the course of their employment were asked where the discrimination came from and if they reported it.





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Unacceptable behaviour



In 2025, the survey used an expanded definition of harassment. Comparing results to 2024 should take this change in definition in context.

Employees who perceived bullying or harassment in the last 12 months were asked what type of bullying or harassment they experienced.
Employees could select one or more responses from a list of items.

Only the three options with the highest proportion of responses are presented here. These may vary between agencies, work units and with results for the APS overall.

Bullying and harassment	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to bullyin workplace?	ng or harassment in your current					
Yes		10%	-2	+1	+1	+2
No		84%	+4	-1	-2	-2
Not sure		5 %	-1	+1	+1	+1
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest resp	onses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		51 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		48%	-	-	-	-
Inappropriate and unfair application of work policies or rules (e.g. performance management, access to leave, access to learning and development)		32 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		33 %	0	-4	0	-1
It was reported by someone else		7 %	0	0	+1	0
I did not report the behaviour		59 %	0	+4	0	+1



Unacceptable behaviour

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator



In 2025, the survey used an updated definition of corruption to align with the National Anti-Corruption Commission Act 2022 and the Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework.

Comparing results to 2024 should take this change in definition in context.

Corruption	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencie
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reporte you observed a public official engaging in conduct in y to be corruption?						
Yes		2%	-1	0	0	0
No		91%	+1	-2	-3	-3
Not sure		5%	0	+1	+2	+1
Prefer not to answer	1	2 %	0	+1	+1	+1
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witnes	sed? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		83%	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		31 %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		23%	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		18%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		20%	+50	-5♥	-3	-3
It was reported by someone else		13%	-3	-5♥	-2	-3
I did not report the behaviour		67 %	-2	+10 💿	+5♠	+6�
		•				



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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	39%
Woman or female	57%
Non-binary	0%
I use a different term	0%
Prefer not to say	4%

Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	Responses
Yes	2%
No	98%

Do you have an ongoing disability?	Responses
Yes	8%
No	92%

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	47%
No	53%

Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and/or Asexual (LGBTIQA+)?	Responses	
Yes	9%	
No	91%	

Do you identify as culturally or linguistically diverse?	Responses
Yes	35%
No	65%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	56%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	2%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	5%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	17%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	4%
Southern and Eastern European	7%
South-East Asian	16%
North-East Asian	5%
Southern and Central Asian	5%
North American	1%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	2%
North African and Middle Eastern	2%
Sub-Saharan African	2%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	6%
No	78%
Maybe	7%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	9%

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Agency position



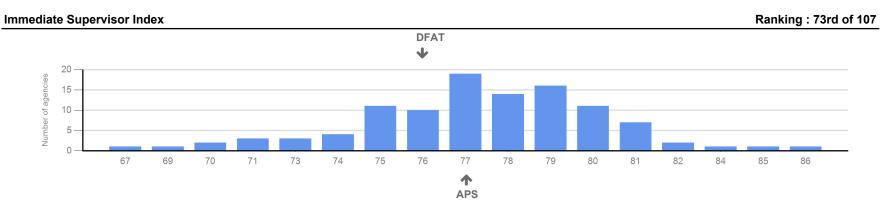
Agency position

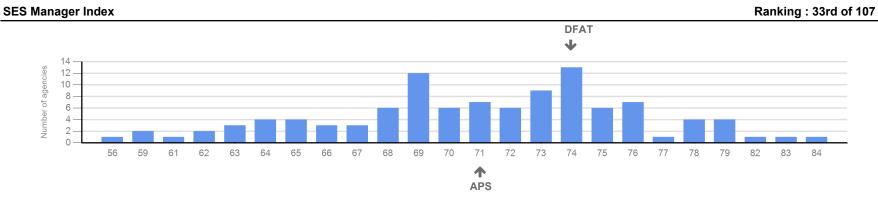
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score and the scores of other agencies.

Along the bottom line (x-axis) are the index scores. The height of the bar (y-axis) is how many agencies have that index score.

Please note, the x-axis values are not consecutive as only index scores received by an agency are represented.









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Agency position

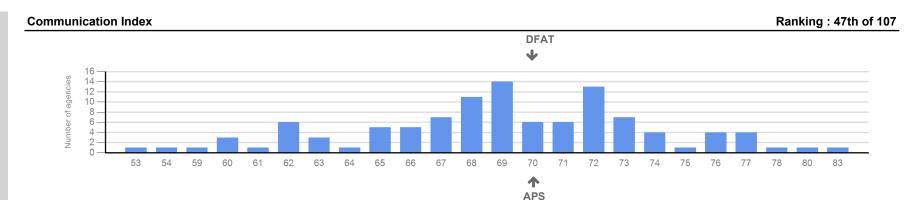


Agency position

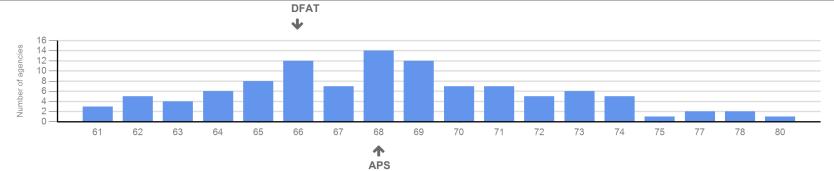
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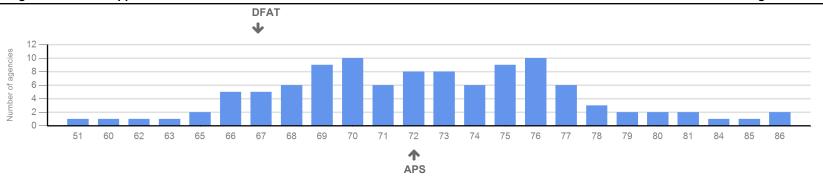
Please note, the x-axis values are not consecutive as only index scores received by an agency are represented.







Wellbeing Policies and Support Index





Ranking: 95th of 107

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Suggested questions to focus on



What to focus on?

Through driver analysis, these key questions have been identified as being important to employees in your agency and associated with employee engagement.

They are not necessarily the questions with the lowest scores.

Some will be areas to improve upon and some will be areas to maintain.

Develop actions and activities to improve upon these, where possible, to drive higher levels of performance.

	5 percentage points greater At least 5 percentage points less than comparator	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
.1	My agency inspires me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	55 %	+100	-4	-2	-2
.2	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	70 %	+5 0	+1	0	O
.3	Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	74 %	+1	+2	-1	O
.4	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	77 %	+4	-4	-5 º	-5 º
.5	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	71 %	+1	+2	-2	-1
.6	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	78 %	+5 0	-6 ⊙	-7 ⊙	-7 •



DFAT specific questions

	Response scal	% Positive	Variance from 2024	
My work area actively promotes inclusion and celebrates diversity	79	17	79 %	+2
My work area has taken practical steps to ensure staff from diverse backgrounds have equitable access to our work, systems and opportunities	74	22	74%	+3
My Branch Head/DHOM/DHOP holds themselves and their peers accountable for leading people with care and consideration	78	16	78 %	+3
My Division Head/HOM/HOP holds themselves and their peers accountable for leading people with care and consideration	77	17	77 %	+3
My Deputy Secretary holds themselves and their peers accountable for leading people with care and consideration	61	34	61%	+2
I believe that the department effectively handles allegations of employee misconduct	44 38	18	44%	+2
I have a good understanding of what psychosocial health is, and where to access information and support regarding it	79	16	79 %	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative

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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Time to take action

	Celebrate
What things do we do well?	
Think about how we can build on our s from what we are good at.	strengths and learn

Q	Investigate further with our teams
	other opportunities coming out nat we want to explore further?

How could we investigate? Through looking at the data in

more detail or through discussions with staff?

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Use this page to start your local action plans

Identify areas to celebrate, opportunities for improvement and areas which you need to investigate further.

Prioritise 3 areas to take forward

	Prioritise 3 areas for action	Timescales	Owner	Resources required	Target/Success measure
1					
2					
3					

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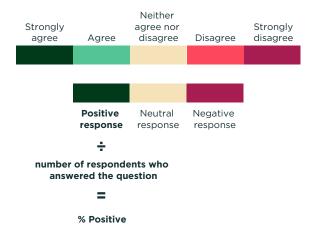
Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

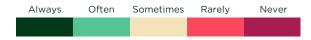
Guide to this report

% Positive

Where results are shown as positive percentages (% positive), these are calculated by adding together positive responses ("strongly agree" + "agree" or "always" + "often") and dividing by the number of respondents who answered the question.



For 5 point scale questions not asked on the *agree to disagree* scale the same rules apply, the green percent represents a **positive response** (unless the question is negatively worded).









Rounding

Results are presented as whole numbers for ease of reading, with rounding performed at the last stage of calculation for maximum accuracy. Values from x.00 to x.49 are rounded down and values from x.50 to x.99 are rounded up. Therefore in some instances, results may not total 100%.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Number of responses	151	166	176	96	24	613
Percentage	24.63%	27.08%	28.71%	15.66%	3.92%	100%
Rounded percentage	25%	27%	29%	16%	4%	101%
Number of positive	151 + 166 = 317					
% Positive	317 ÷ 613 = 52%					

Anonymity

It is best practice not to display the results of groups of respondents to the extent where the anonymity of individuals may be compromised. Results will not be shown where there are less than 10 respondents in a group.

Comparisons

Comparisons to other similarly sized agencies are used through this report.

Comparisons to previous years

The method of analysing and reporting specific results may be periodically reviewed and revised. Such improvements are applied to current data and that of previous years. For this reason the current report is always the most accurate data source for APS Employee Census results, including comparisons with time series data.

