

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

2,970 of 3,834

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.



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

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

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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 Immediate Supervisor	Response scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	Index score				-1	0	-1	-1
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	79	12 8	79 %	-1	-1	-1	-1
/isor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	79	13 8	79 %	-1	-1	-1	-1
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	81	11 8	81%	-1	-1	-3	-2
nediate	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	82	11	82%	-1	0	0	0
<u> </u>	My supervisor is invested in my development	76	14 10	76 %	-2	-2	-2	-2
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	88	8	88%	-2	0	-1	-1
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	76	13 10	76 %	-2	-3	-1	-2
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	78	15 7	78 %	-1	0	-1	-1
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	84	11	84%	-2	-1	-1	-1
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	80	12 8	80%	-2	-1	-2	-1
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage po	ints less tha	n comparator		Positive N	leutral Negative	e



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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.

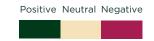
2	Your SES Manager Index score	Response	scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
					-3	0	-2	-1
	My SES manager clearly articulates the direction and priorities for our area	71	17 12	71 %	-6 •	0	-3	-2
	My SES manager presents convincing arguments and persuades others towards an outcome	65	25 10	65%	-5♥	+1	-5♥	-3
Manager	My SES manager promotes cooperation within and between agencies	73	21	73 %	-4	+3	-4	-1
SES Me	My SES manager encourages innovation and creativity	68	23 9	68%	-3	0	-3	-1
	My SES manager creates an environment that enables us to deliver our best	67	20 13	67 %	-5♥	0	-5 ♥	-3
	My SES manager ensures that work effort contributes to the strategic direction of the agency and the APS	77	17	77 %	-5♥	+1	-4	-2
	Other similar questions							
	In my agency, the SES work as a team	57	29 13	57 %	-4	-1	-4	-1
	In my agency, the SES clearly articulate the direction and priorities for our agency	67	20 13	67 %	-6♥	0	-1	0
	My SES manager routinely promotes the use of data and evidence to deliver outcomes	73	21	73 %	-1	+4	0	+2

Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





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Communication and change



Communication

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

P	Your Communication Index score	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies -2	Variance from large sized agencies
tion	My supervisor communicates effectively	78 11 11	78 %	-2	-3	-2	-3
Communication	My SES manager communicates effectively	71 17 12	71 %	-6♥	0	-3	-2
Con	Internal communication within my agency is effective	59 21 19	59 %	-3	-3	-4	-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

Change

When changes occur, the impacts are communicated well within my workgroup	60	18	22	60%	-8♥	-7♥	-7 ♥	-7 ⊙
Staff are consulted about change at work	46	36	18	46%	-6♥	-6♥	-6♥	-6 0
Change is managed well in my agency	43	29	29	43%	-5♥	-5♥	-5♥	-4

Key At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

0

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



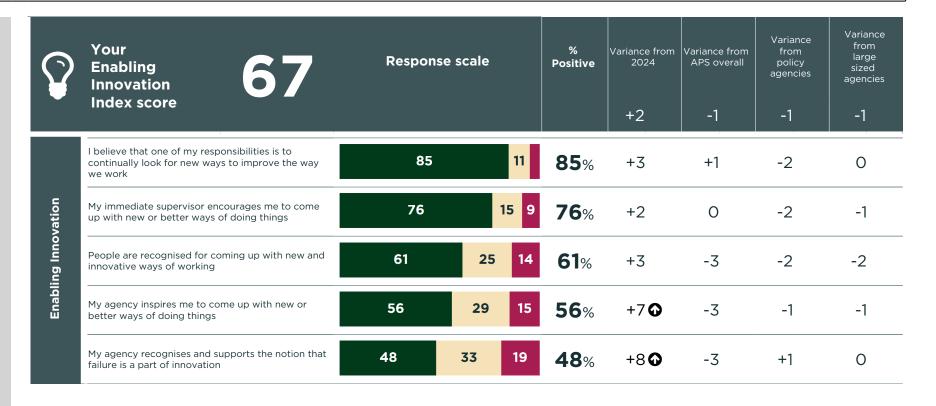
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Enabling Innovation



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.



Kev



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



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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		10%	0	-2	-3	-2
Very good		35 %	+1	0	-1	-1
Good		37 %	-1	0	+1	+1
Fair		14%	-2	+1	+2	+2
Poor		4%	+1	+1	+1	+1
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		18%	-4	+2	+2	+2
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		37 %	-4	-3	-2	-2
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		34 %	+5♠	-3	0	-1
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		9%	+2	+3	0	+1
Well below capacity - not enough work		2%	0	+1	0	0

Key





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	0	+1	+1
Often		23%	-1	0	+1	+1
Sometimes		49%	0	-1	-2	-2
Rarely		21%	0	+1	+1	+1
Never		2%	0	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		8%	+1	+1	+2	+2
To a large extent		19%	+1	-1	+2	+1
Somewhat		37 %	0	-2	-2	-2
To a small extent		26%	-1	+2	-1	-1
To a very small extent		10%	-1	+1	-1	-1
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		8%	+1	+1	+1	+1
Agree		20%	0	-1	0	0
Neither agree nor disagree		29%	-1	-3	-2	-2
Disagree		33%	0	+2	0	0
Strongly disagree		9%	0	+1	0	0

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

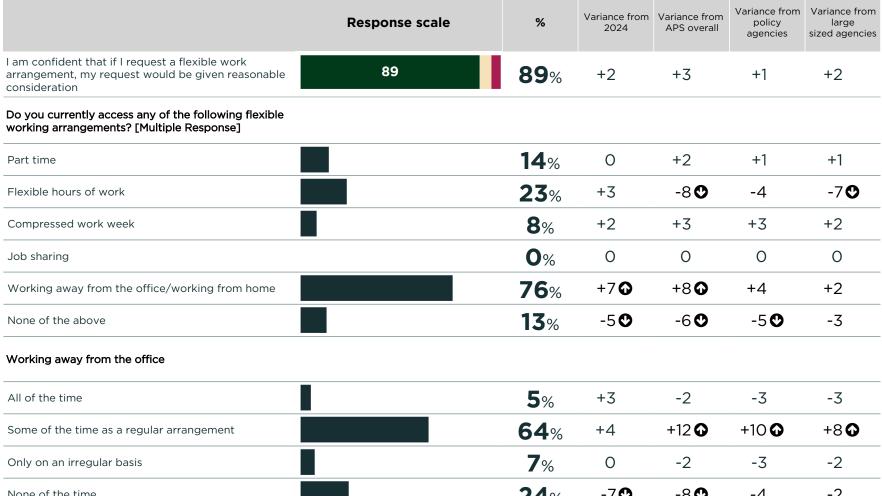
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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

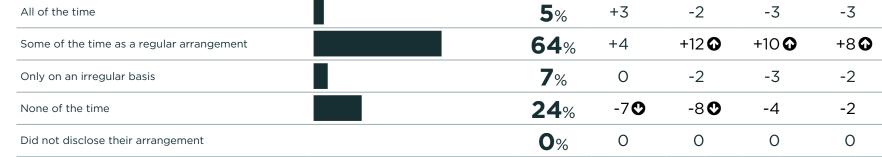
Key

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.



Kev 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 so	ale	% 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	66	19 15	66%	-1	-4	-5 0	-4
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	73	19 8	73 %	-6♥	-4	-6♥	-5♥
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	79	12 9	79 %	-1	-2	-4	-3
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	90	8	90%	+1	+2	+1	+1
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	70	21 8	70 %	+3	+2	+2	+2
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	82	12	82%	-4	-2	-4	-4
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	80	12 8	80%	-	-3	-5♥	-4
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	87	7	87 %	-	-1	-2	-2
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	77	13 10	77 %	-3	-2	-3	-3
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)	68	20 12	68%	-	+1	-2	-2

Key



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 so	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	policy	Variance from large sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	69	17 14	69 %	-5♥	+1	-3	-2
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	79	11 9	79 %	0	+13 🕢	+4	+7 •
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	86	8	86%	+1	+2	0	0
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	80	11 10	80%	-6♥	-6♥	-6 ©	-6♥

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	91		91%	-2	-1	0	-1
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	79	15	79 %	0	-5♥	-3	-4
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	68 23	3 9	68%	0	0	-6 •	-5♥
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	69 15	16	69%	-6♥	-3	-6♥	-5♥

Key

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		22%	-80	-3	-3	-3
Very good		56%	+1	-1	-2	-2
Average		18%	+5 ♠	+2	+3	+3
Below average		3 %	+1	+1	+1	+1
Well below average		1%	+1	+1	+1	+1

	Response	scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	74	15 11	74 %	-5♥	-5♥	-6♥	-6 O
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	54	20 25	54 %	-5♥	-5 O	-5♥	-5♥
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	70	17 13	70 %	-6♥	-5♥	-4	-5♥
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	77	12 11	77 %	-4	-3	-4	-4
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	58	29 13	58%	-2	-1	+1	+1

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

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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	11%	+2	+3	+2	+3
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	26%	+1	+4	0	+3
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	41%	-1	+2	-3	-2
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	22%	-1	-9 0	0	-4
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	4%	0	-1	+1	+1
I am pursuing another position within my agency	36 %	-5♥	-10 👁	-7♥	-6♥
I am pursuing a position in another agency	35 %	+7 0	+10 🐼	+7 	+80
I am pursuing work outside the APS	6%	0	-2	-2	-3
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	3 %	-2	+1	+1	0
Other	15%	-1	+1	0	0

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



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.

F	Response 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 curre responses):	ent position? (5 highest					
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity		15%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change		11%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area		9%	-	-	-	-
Senior leadership is of a poor quality		8%	-	-	-	-
There are a lack of future career opportunities in my agency		7 %	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

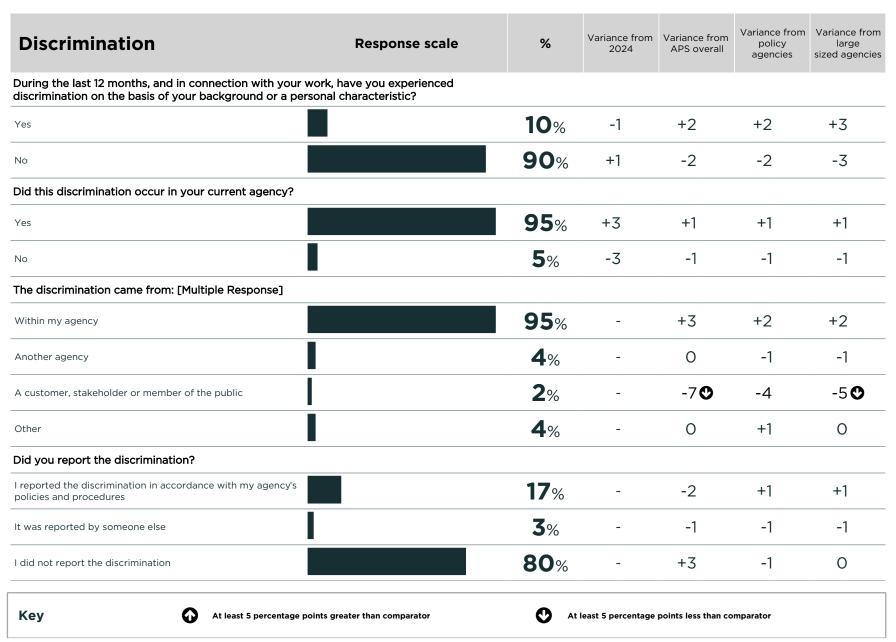


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Unacceptable behaviour



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 bull workplace?	ying or harassment in your current					
Yes		12 %	+1	+3	+3	+4
No		83%	-1	-3	-4	-4
Not sure		5 %	0	0	+1	0
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest re	sponses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		59 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		37 %	-	-	-	-
Inappropriate and unfair application of work policies or rules (e.g. performance management, access to leave, access to learning and development)		35 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		39 %	-1	+2	+6 🐼	+5 ♦
It was reported by someone else		5 %	-2	-2	-1	-2
I did not report the behaviour		55 %	+3	0	-4	-3

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



Unacceptable behaviour



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 agencies
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reported to you observed a public official engaging in conduct in your to be corruption?						
Yes		2%	-1	0	0	0
No		93%	0	+1	-1	0
Not sure		4 %	+1	0	0	0
Prefer not to answer		1%	0	0	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witnessed	? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		65%	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		46%	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		17 %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		15%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		23%	-5♥	-2	0	0
It was reported by someone else		15%	0	-2	+1	0
I did not report the behaviour		62 %	+5♠	+4	0	+1
Key At least 5 percentage point	ts greater than comparator	♣ At	least 5 percentage	points less than co	emparator	



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Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	26%
Woman or female	69%
Non-binary	1%
I use a different term	0%
Prefer not to say	3%

Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	Responses
Yes	5%
No	95%

Do you have an ongoing disability?	Responses
Yes	18%
No	82%

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	46%
No	54%

Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and/or Asexual (LGBTIQA+)?	Responses	
Yes	12%	
No	88%	

Do you identify as culturally or linguistically diverse?	Responses
Yes	22%
No	78%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	76%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	5%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	2%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	1%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	15%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	3%
Southern and Eastern European	7%
South-East Asian	8%
North-East Asian	2%
Southern and Central Asian	3%
North American	1%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	1%
North African and Middle Eastern	1%
Sub-Saharan African	1%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	14%
No	69%
Maybe	13%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	4%

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Agency position

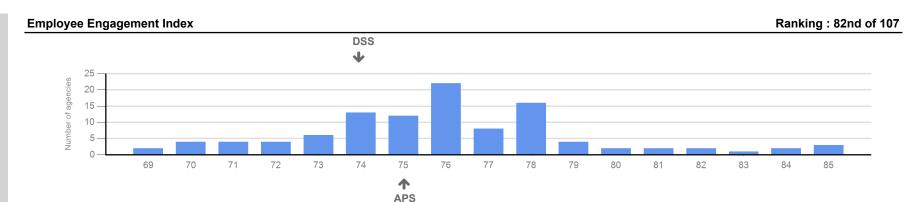


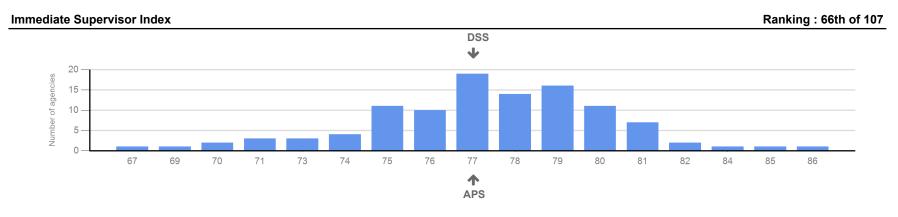
Agency position

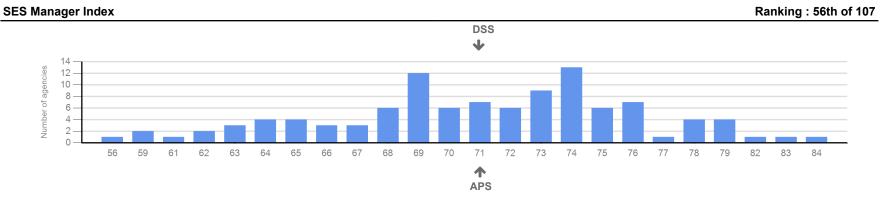
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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

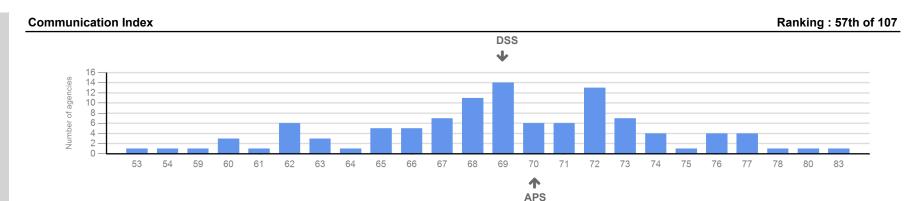


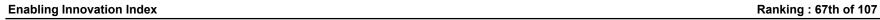
Agency position

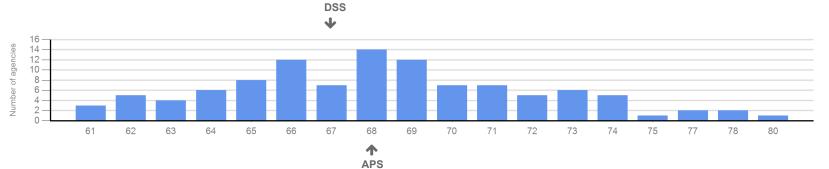
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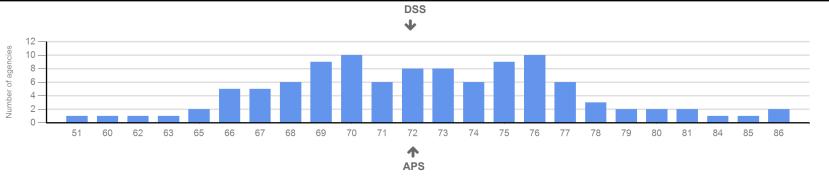
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Wellbeing Policies and Support Index





Ranking: 60th 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.

	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	56 %	+7 o	-3	-1	-1
.2	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	66%	-1	-4	-5	-4
.3	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	69%	-5	+1	-3	-2
.4	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	79 %	-1	-2	-4	-3
.5	Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	69%	-6	-3	-6	-5
.6	My SES manager creates an environment that enables us to deliver our best	67 %	-5	0	-5	-3



DSS specific questions

	Response s	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
My Branch / State Manager uses regular meeting forums to update staff on the department's goals and priorities and how this relates to my workgroup's outputs	82	12	82 %	-5♥
My agency actively encourages a pro-integrity culture through fostering a culture which values, acknowledges and champions doing the right thing	77	17	77 %	-2
My branch leadership encourages me to be curious in my work	70	21 9	70%	-4
My agency recognises the importance of workplace wellbeing (including mental health)	79	14 8	79 %	-1
My team collaborates on new ideas and problem solving	70	22 8	70%	-
When I make a suggestion, I feel my suggestion is heard	64	27 10	64%	+4
When change occurs, the reasons are communicated well by the SES in my Group	53	32 15	53 %	-6♥
I feel confident to speak up, contest ideas and share a different view to my colleagues and immediate supervisor to influence better outcomes and decisions	72	17 12	72 %	-4
I am encouraged to collaborate with peers across the Department	72	19 9	72 %	0
Senior leaders model the behaviours of the 4Cs - Curiosity, Contestability, Collaboration and Courage	63	24 13	63 %	-6♥

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At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key



Positive Neutral Negative

DSS specific questions

	Response se	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
I feel confident that my team environment supports me to show courage in difficult circumstances/situations	74	17 9	74 %	-3
I feel senior leaders empower others to take greater responsibility within teams	58	26 16	58%	-4
I know what I am accountable for in my current role	84	10	84%	-4
My director demonstrates strong people management behaviours (e.g. empowers and develops others; builds an inclusive environment; treat people with decency and respect)	76	12 12	76 %	-

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 sfrom what we are good at.	strengths and learn

Q	Investigate further with our teams
_	ther opportunities coming out at we want to explore further?

How could we investigate? Through looking at the data in

more detail or through discussions with staff?

Areas we	need to focus on and turn into actic
plans:	



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					

Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

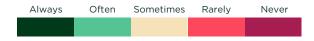
Guide to this report

% 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).



Ipsos





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.

