

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

206 of 242

Response rate:

85%



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.



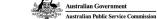
Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



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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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
	Index score			+2	+2	+2	+2
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	88 8	88%	+4	+70	+7•	+80
visor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	81 14	81%	+3	+1	+1	+2
Super	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	87 9	87%	+3	+4	+3	+4
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	85 11	85%	+4	+3	+3	+3
<u> </u>	My supervisor is invested in my development	82 13	82%	+2	+4	+3	+4
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	91 8	91%	0	+2	+2	+2
	Other similar questions						
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	79 14 7	79 %	+2	0	+1	+1
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	83 12	83%	+5 ♦	+5 ♦	+4	+5 ☆
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	88 9	88%	-2	+3	+3	+4
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	84 15	84%	+1	+3	+3	+3
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator		Positive N	Neutral Negative	2		

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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.

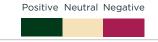
2	Your SES Manager Index score	Response scale	;	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies +4	Variance from medium sized agencies +4
	My SES manager clearly articulates the direction and priorities for our area	78	16	78%	+80	+7 ©	+7 ©	+70
	My SES manager presents convincing arguments and persuades others towards an outcome	75	20	75 %	+9 0	+11 🐼	+80	+90
Manager	My SES manager promotes cooperation within and between agencies	83	14	83%	+5 0	+14 🐼	+12 🟠	+12 🕢
SES Ma	My SES manager encourages innovation and creativity	78	17	78 %	+14 🟠	+10 🐼	+10 🐼	+90
	My SES manager creates an environment that enables us to deliver our best	76	16 7	76 %	+10 🐼	+9 🐼	+80	+80
	My SES manager ensures that work effort contributes to the strategic direction of the agency and the APS	90	8	90%	+10 🐼	+14 🕥	+12 🕢	+11 🐼
	Other similar questions							
	In my agency, the SES work as a team	67	27	67 %	+7♦	+80	+11 🐼	+11 🚱
	In my agency, the SES clearly articulate the direction and priorities for our agency	72	19 9	72 %	+7 •	+6 ♦	+80	+7♦
	My SES manager routinely promotes the use of data and evidence to deliver outcomes	77	19	77 %	0	+80	+6�	+7 0

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.

,	Your Communication Index score	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024 +5 	Variance from APS overall +4	Variance from specialist agencies +4	Variance from medium sized agencies
Communication	My supervisor communicates effectively	86 9	86%	+2	+4	+4	+50
	My SES manager communicates effectively	81 13	81%	+6 ⊙	+9 0	+9 0	+90
	Internal communication within my agency is effective	70 18 12	70 %	+23 0	+80	+10 🐼	+12 🚱

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	76	15 8	76 %	0	+9♠	+80	+10 🚱
Change	Staff are consulted about change at work	59	32 10	59 %	+3	+7 6	+9 0	+9♠
	Change is managed well in my agency	46	35 19	46%	+10 🕥	-2	+2	+2

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

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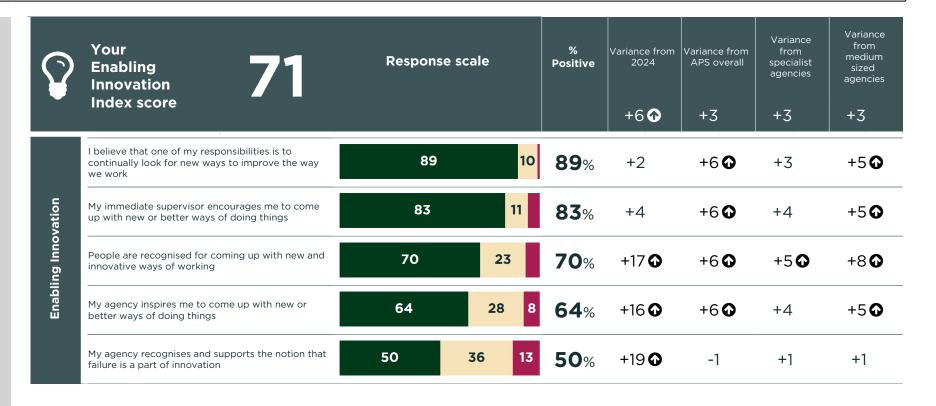
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Enabling Innovation



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

Positive Neutral Negative



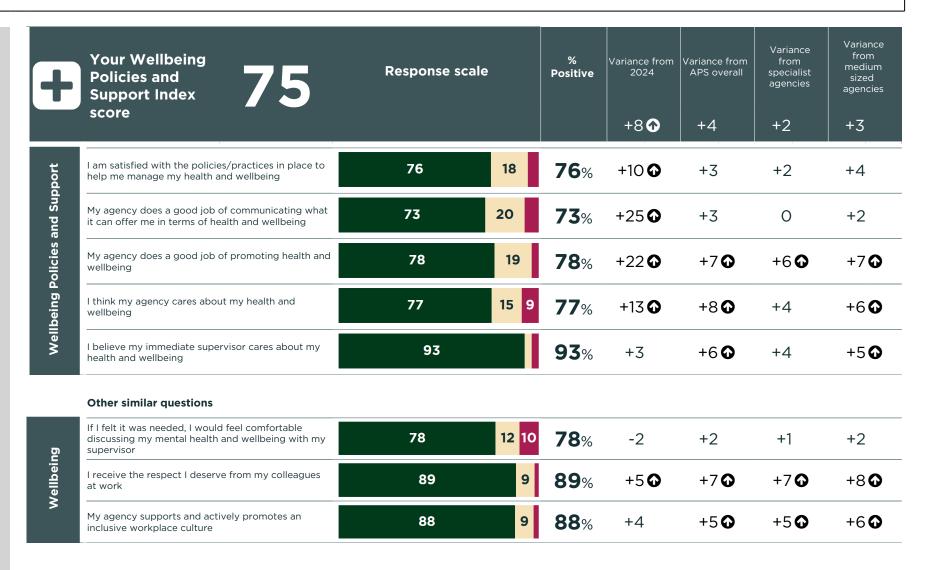
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Wellbeing Policies and Support



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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		14%	+1	+3	+1	+2
Very good		33 %	-5♥	-2	-4	-4
Good		34 %	0	-3	-2	-2
Fair		13%	+4	+1	+2	+1
Poor		5%	0	+2	+3	+3
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity – too much work		18%	-7 0	+2	0	-1
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		37 %	-2	-2	-3	-2
At capacity - about the right amount of work to do		39 %	+9	+3	+6 🟠	+6•
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		5 %	0	-1	-2	-2
Well below capacity - not enough work		0%	-1	-1	-1	-2

Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

0

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator



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Wellbeing

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		4%	+1	-1	0	0
Often		15%	-3	-80	-6♥	-7 ♥
Sometimes		48%	-5♥	-2	-3	-2
Rarely		32 %	+80	+12 🐼	+10 🐼	+10 🐼
Never		1%	-1	-1	-1	-1
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent	I	4%	0	-3	-2	-2
To a large extent		11%	-3	-80	-6 •	-7 O
Somewhat		33%	0	-6♥	-5♥	-6♥
To a small extent		33%	-1	+90	+60	+7
To a very small extent		18%	+4	+80	+6�	+7♠
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		6%	0	-1	-1	-1
Agree		19%	-6♥	-2	-1	-2
Neither agree nor disagree		25%	-3	-8 👁	-6♥	-6♥
Disagree		38 %	+7 	+6�	+4	+5♠
Strongly disagree		13%	+3	+5 	+3	+4

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At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

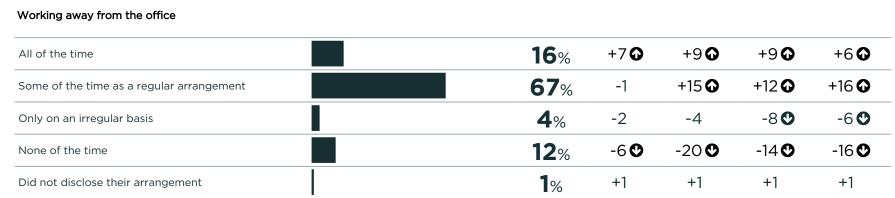
Flexible work

Variance from Variance from



	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	specialist agencies	medium sized agencies
I am confident that if I request a flexible work arrangement, my request would be given reasonable consideration	96	96%	+3	+9 0	+8 ₽	+8🖸
Do you currently access any of the following flexible working arrangements? [Multiple Response]						
Part time		18%	-2	+5 0	+5 0	+60
Flexible hours of work		43%	+10 🗗	+13 🚱	+7 •	+11 🕢
Compressed work week		4%	+2	-1	0	-1
Job sharing		1%	+1	+1	+1	+1
Working away from the office/working from home		88%	+6 ♦	+20 	+14 🚱	+16 🚱
None of the above		3 %	-3	-16 🗸	-12 🗷	-14 👁

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



Positive Neutral Negative



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Working in the APS

	Response sc	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	70	20 10	70 %	+4	+1	0	+2
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	84	13	84%	-1	+7 6	+4	+5♠
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	86	8	86%	+80	+5♠	+4	+5♠
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	90	9	90%	0	+1	+2	+2
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	60	32 7	60%	+3	-8♥	-3	-4
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	91	8	91%	+1	+6 🚱	+3	+5♠
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	91		91%	-	+80	+5 ⊕	+7 0
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	93		93%	-	+4	+3	+3
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	85	11	85%	+1	+5♠	+3	+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)	78	13 10	78 %	-	+11 🚱	+5♠	+7 0

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 scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	80 14	80%	+7 •	+12 🚱	+9♠	+11 🐼
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	79 10 11	79 %	+6 ♦	+13 🐼	+13 🐼	+12 🐼
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	94	94%	+6	+10 🐼	+80	+9
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	91	91%	+4	+5 ♠	+80	+9

Clarity and autonomy

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I understand how my role contributes to achieving an outcome for the Australian public	96	96%	-2	+3	+3	+3
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	88 10	88%	+3	+4	+5 🕜	+60
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	82 14	82%	+5 0	+14 🕥	+6 🚱	+80
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	80 15	80%	+1	+90	+6 🚱	+7 0

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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Performance

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	specialist agencies	medium sized agencies
In the last month, please rate your workgroup's overall performance						
Excellent		34 %	0	+90	+80	+70
Very good		53 %	+1	-3	-3	-3
Average		12 %	0	-4	-3	-3
Below average		1%	0	-1	-1	-1
Well below average		0%	0	-1	-1	-1

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	84 10	84%	-1	+6 🚱	+4	+5♠
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	52 23 25	52 %	+4	-8 O	-4	-3
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	82 13	82%	-2	+7♦	+4	+7 0
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	81 13	81%	+1	+2	0	+2
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	43 33 24	43%	+3	-16 🛡	-13 O	-15 🛡

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

Australian Government

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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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts about working in your curposition?	rrent				
I want to leave my position as soon as possible	7 %	-2	-2	-1	-2
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	17 %	-6 •	-5♥	-3	-4
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	46%	+4	+7 	+3	+5 ♠
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	31 %	+3	0	+1	+1
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	2%	-6♥	-3	-1	-1
I am pursuing another position within my agency	15%	+2	-30 🛇	-13 ♥	-12 O
I am pursuing a position in another agency	48%	-8 👁	+23 🚳	+12 🐼	+10 🐼
I am pursuing work outside the APS	4%	+2	-4	-10 ♥	-7♥
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	7 %	+3	+4	+2	0
Other	24%	+7 0	+10 🐼	+10 🐼	+9

Australian Government

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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.

Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your current position? (5 highest responses):					
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change	16%	-	-	-	-
I am expected to do more work than I reasonably can	16%	-	-	-	-
There are a lack of future career opportunities in my agency	13%	-	-	-	-
My immediate supervisor's leadership is of a poor quality	10%	-	-	-	-
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity	10%	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

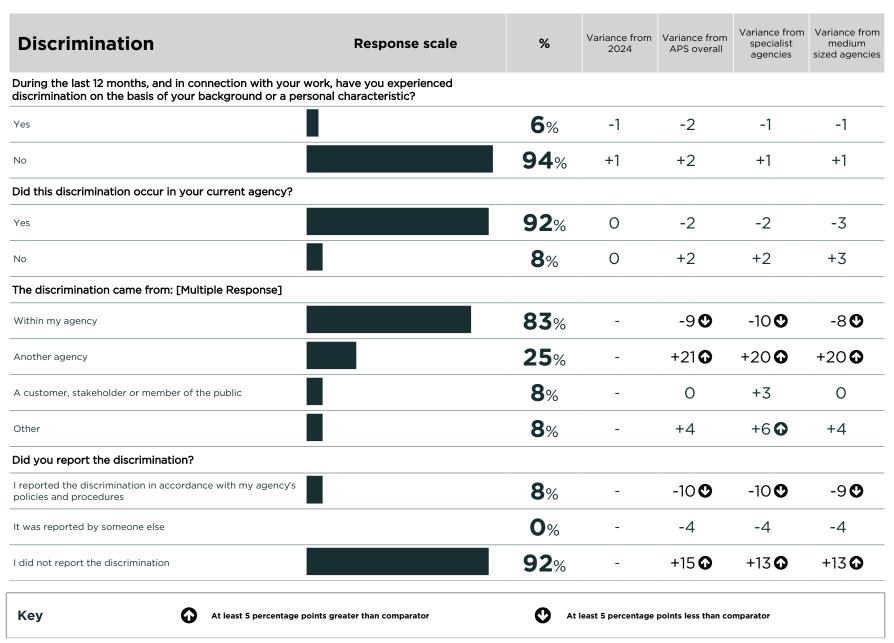


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Unacceptable behaviour



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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to bull workplace?	ying or harassment in your current					
Yes		6 %	-2	-3	-1	-3
No		92%	+7♠	+6 🚱	+4	+5 ♠
Not sure		2%	-5♥	-3	-2	-2
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest re-	sponses):					
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		54%	-	-	-	-
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		46%	-	-	-	-
Inappropriate and unfair application of work policies or rules (e.g. performance management, access to leave, access to learning and development)		31 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		31 %	-19 🗸	-6 O	-4	-5♥
It was reported by someone else		15%	+80	+80	+70	+70
I did not report the behaviour		54%	+11 🕢	-1	-3	-3

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



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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour report you observed a public official engaging in conduct in to be corruption?						
Yes		1%	0	0	-1	-1
No		94%	-1	+1	+1	+1
Not sure		3 %	+1	-1	-1	-1
Prefer not to answer	1	2 %	0	0	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witne	essed? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office The data for this question has been hidden to preserve privacy.						
Misuse of information or documents The data for this question has been hidden to preserve privacy.						
A breach of public trust The data for this question has been hidden to preserve privacy.						
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official	ί τος σεία τον τους συμφείου τας πρου πίσσε το πίσσε τος					
Did you report the conduct?						
reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's olicies and procedures The data for this question has been hidden to preserve privacy.						
was reported by someone else						
did not report the behaviour The data for this question has been hidden to preserve privacy.						



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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	28%
Woman or female	68%
Non-binary	0%
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	1%
No	99%

Do you have an ongoing disability?	Responses
Yes	10%
No	90%

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	10%
No	90%

Do you identify as culturally or linguistically diverse?	Responses
Yes	21%
No	79%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	81%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	0%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	0%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	15%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	3%
Southern and Eastern European	4%
South-East Asian	9%
North-East Asian	2%
Southern and Central Asian	3%
North American	1%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	0%
North African and Middle Eastern	3%
Sub-Saharan African	1%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	10%
No	76%
Maybe	10%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	3%

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Agency position

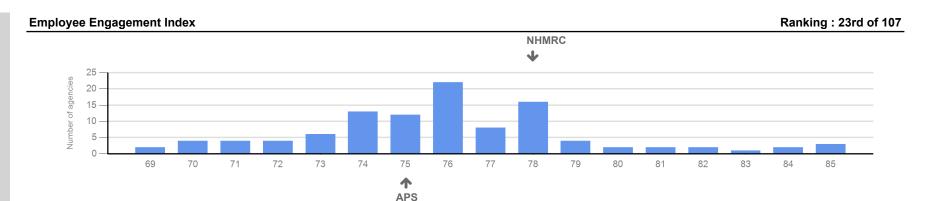


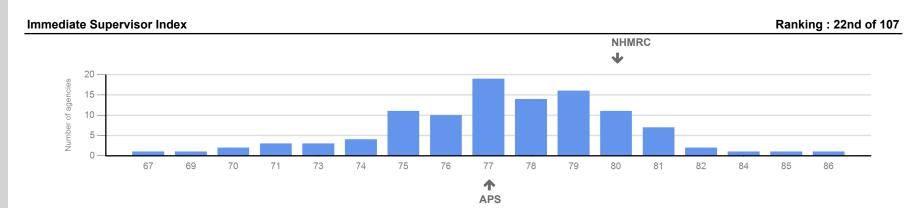
Agency position

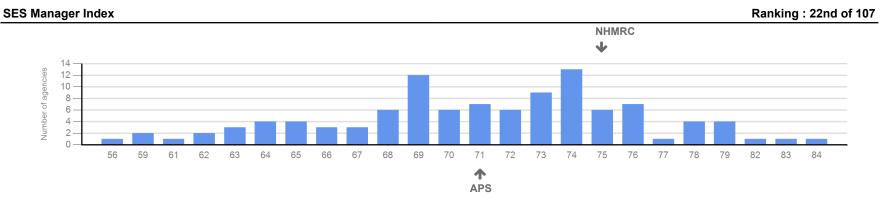
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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



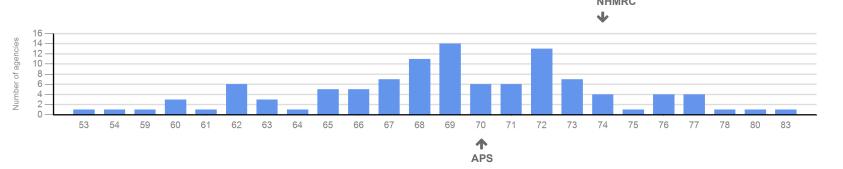
Agency position

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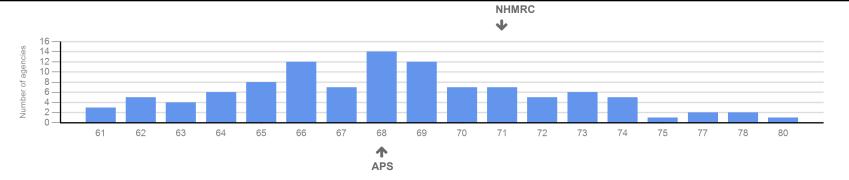
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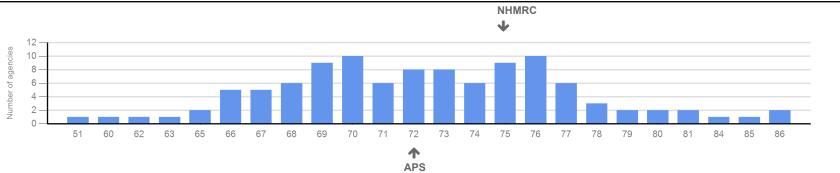




Enabling Innovation Index Ranking: 24th of 107



Wellbeing Policies and Support Index





Ranking: 31st 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.

	t 5 percentage points greater mparator At least 5 percentage points less than comparator	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
.1	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	86%	+80	+5 0	+4	+50
.2	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	88%	+4	+5 0	+5 0	+60
.3	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	80%	+70	+120	+9 0	+110
.4	Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	80%	+1	+90	+60	+70
.5	In my agency, the SES clearly articulate the direction and priorities for our agency	72 %	+70	+60	+80	+70
.6	The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	84%	-1	+70	+4	+5 0



NHMRC specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
Technology is adding value to the way I work	72 19 9	72 %	+17 🐼
I have access to opportunities for collaboration with teams in other sections across NHMRC	65 24 11	65 %	-
In my role I have sufficient time to pursue innovative ideas that could enhance process, approaches and implement new initiatives	43 27 30	43%	-
NHMRC promotes effective consultation that brings in fresh ideas and perspectives	59 32 9	59 %	-
Flexible work arrangements at NHMRC enable greater productivity in my work area	93	93%	+5♠
NHMRC has effective internal communication channels that promote trust, collaboration, and idea-sharing	64 27 9	64%	-
I am well-informed about the strategic direction of NHMRC	73 22	73 %	-
NHMRC has a workplace culture that leaves me feeling energised and excited	54 32 13	54 %	-
At NHMRC, tasks are prioritised based on their urgency, supporting evidence and availability of resources	65 24 11	65 %	-
At NHMRC resources are allocated fairly across branches	27 50 23	27 %	-

Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

Positive Neutral Negative

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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Time to take action

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

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

How could we investigate? Through looking at the data in

more detail or through discussions with staff?

<u>~</u>	Opportunities
Areas we nee plans:	d to focus on and turn into actio



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).









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	s = 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.