

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

7,332 of 9,721

Response rate:

75%



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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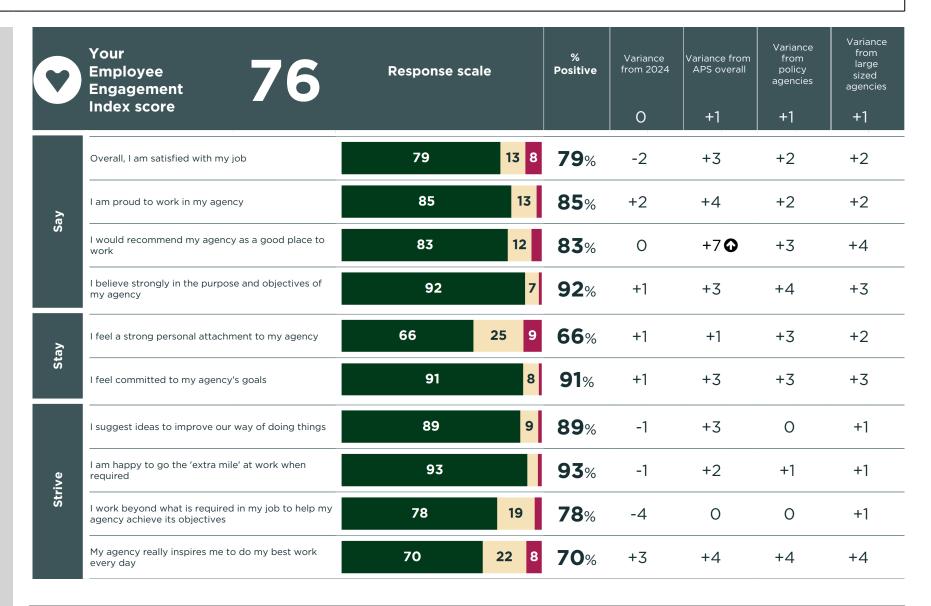


Employee Engagement: Say, Stay, Strive



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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	Index score				-1	+1	0	O
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	82	12	82%	0	+1	+1	+1
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	81	12	81%	0	+1	+1	+1
	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	85	9	85%	-1	+2	+1	+1
	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	84	11	84%	-1	+1	+1	+1
<u>m</u>	My supervisor is invested in my development	78	15	78 %	-1	0	-1	-1
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	90	7	90%	0	+2	+1	+1
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	80	13 8	80%	0	+1	+2	+1
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	80	14	80%	0	+2	+1	+1
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	86	10	86%	-1	+1	+1	+1
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	82	12	82%	-1	+1	0	+1
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage point	s less tha	an comparator		Positive N	leutral Negative	

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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.

-	Your SES Manager Index score	Response sc	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall +3	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies +1
	My SES manager clearly articulates the direction and priorities for our area	74	17 9	74%	-2	+3	0	+2
	My SES manager presents convincing arguments and persuades others towards an outcome	70	23	70%	-3	+7 	0	+3
SES Manager	My SES manager promotes cooperation within and between agencies	76	20	76 %	-3	+70	-1	+3
SES Ma	My SES manager encourages innovation and creativity	73	21	73 %	-3	+5 ☆	+2	+4
	My SES manager creates an environment that enables us to deliver our best	72	19 8	72 %	-2	+5 0	0	+3
	My SES manager ensures that work effort contributes to the strategic direction of the agency and the APS	81	15	81%	-1	+5♠	+1	+3
	Other similar questions							
	In my agency, the SES work as a team	65	25 10	65 %	-1	+6 🚱	+4	+6 ☆
	In my agency, the SES clearly articulate the direction and priorities for our agency	72	19 9	72 %	-1	+5 ♠	+4	+6
	My SES manager routinely promotes the use of data and evidence to deliver outcomes	75	20	75 %	-2	+6 🕥	+3	+4

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



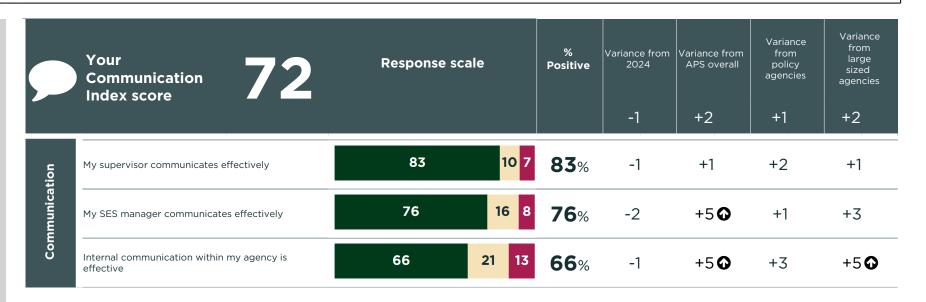
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Communication and change



Communication

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



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	70	17 13	70 %	-3	+3	+3	+3
Staff are consulted about change at work	56	32 12	56%	-3	+4	+5♠	+5
Change is managed well in my agency	52	29 20	52 %	-2	+4	+4	+5 0

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

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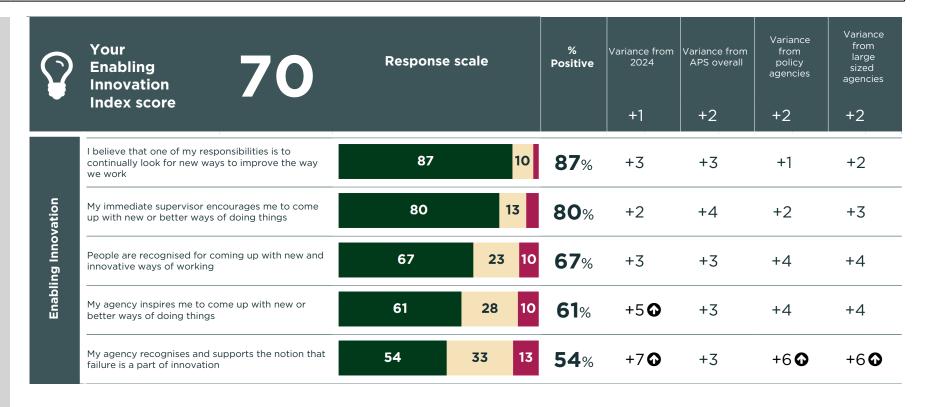
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Enabling Innovation



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.





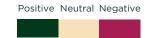
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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



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.

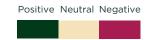


Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





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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		13%	+1	+1	0	+1
Very good		37 %	0	+2	+1	+1
Good		36%	-1	-2	0	0
Fair		11%	-1	-1	-1	-1
Poor		2%	0	-1	0	-1
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		17%	-3	+1	+1	+1
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		40%	0	+1	+2	+1
At capacity - about the right amount of work to do		35 %	+3	-2	0	0
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		6%	0	0	-2	-2
Well below capacity - not enough work		1%	0	0	-1	0

Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



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		3 %	0	-1	0	0
Often		20%	-1	-3	-2	-2
Sometimes		52 %	+1	+2	+1	+1
Rarely		22%	+1	+3	+2	+2
Never		2%	0	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		4%	0	-3	-1	-1
To a large extent		15%	0	-4	-2	-2
Somewhat		39%	+2	0	+1	+1
To a small extent		28%	-1	+4	+1	+1
To a very small extent		13%	0	+3	+1	+2
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		6%	0	-1	-1	-1
Agree		18%	-2	-3	-2	-2
Neither agree nor disagree		32 %	+2	0	+1	+1
Disagree		34%	0	+3	+1	+1
Strongly disagree		9%	0	+1	+1	0

Key



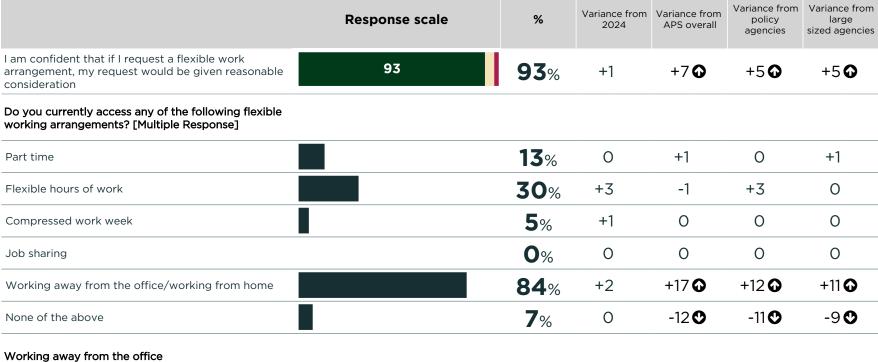


At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

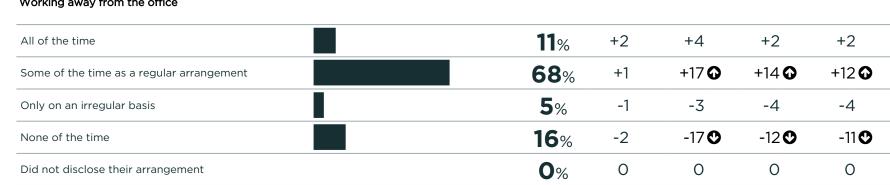


Flexible work





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 sca	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	73	17 10	73 %	+2	+3	+2	+3
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	81	15	81%	-1	+4	+2	+3
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	85	10	85%	+3	+3	+2	+3
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	90	9	90%	+2	+1	0	0
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	67	25 8	67 %	+4	-2	-1	-1
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	88	9	88%	-2	+3	+1	+1
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	86	9	86%	-	+2	+1	+1
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	89		89%	-	+1	0	0
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	82	11	82%	-2	+2	+2	+1
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)	70	17 13	70%	-	+3	0	0

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key



Positive Neutral Negative

Job satisfaction

	Response scale		% Positive	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	75	15 10	75 %	-3	+6♠	+2	+3
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	77	14 9	77 %	0	+12 🚱	+2	+5
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	90	7	90%	0	+5 	+3	+3
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	82	10 7	82%	-4	-4	-4	-3

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%	-1	0	+1	+1
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	85 12	85%	+5 ⊘	0	+2	+1
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	76 19	76 %	-1	+80	+2	+3
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	77 14 9	77 %	-3	+5 0	+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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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		26%	-5♥	+2	+1	+1
Very good		58%	+3	+1	0	+1
Average		14%	+1	-2	-1	-1
Below average		2%	0	0	0	0
Well below average		1%	0	0	0	0

	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	81	11 7	81%	-2	+3	+1	+1
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	62	18 19	62 %	-5♥	+2	+3	+3
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	76	15 9	76 %	-3	+2	+2	+2
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	81	11 8	81%	-3	+2	+1	+1
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	55	33 12	55 %	-1	-4	-2	-2

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

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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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts al position?	oout working in your current					
I want to leave my position as soon as possible		8%	0	-1	-1	0
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months		22%	0	+1	-3	-1
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years		44%	0	+5♠	+1	+1
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years		26%	-1	-5♥	+4	0
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your curre	nt position?					
I am planning to retire		4%	0	-1	+1	0
I am pursuing another position within my agency		42%	-5 ♥	-3	0	0
I am pursuing a position in another agency		22%	+4	-3	-6♥	-5♥
I am pursuing work outside the APS		8%	0	-1	-1	-1
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment		7 %	0	+5♠	+4	+4
Other		17 %	+1	+3	+2	+2

Key At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator 4t 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.

R	esponse 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 currer responses):	nt position? (5 highest					
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity		16%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change		13%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area		12%	-	-	-	-
I have achieved all I can in my current position		8%	-	-	-	-
My immediate supervisor's leadership is of a poor quality		7 %	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



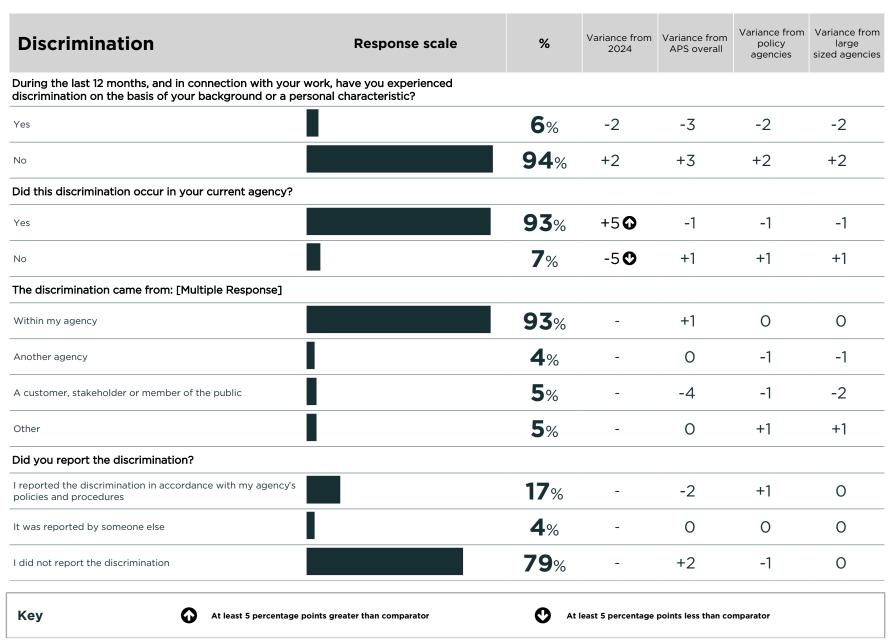
At least 5 percentage points less than comparator



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 bu workplace?	Illying or harassment in your current					
Yes		8%	-1	-2	-1	-1
No		88%	+2	+2	+2	+1
Not sure		4%	-1	0	0	0
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest re	esponses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		55 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		39 %	-	-	-	-
Deliberate exclusion from work-related activities		35 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		33 %	+2	-4	0	-1
It was reported by someone else		8%	+1	0	+1	0
I did not report the behaviour		60%	-3	+4	0	+1



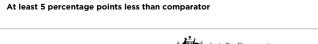
Unacceptable behaviour



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 you observed a public official engaging in conduct in you to be corruption?						
Yes		1%	-1	-1	0	-1
No		94%	+1	+2	+1	+1
Not sure		3 %	0	-1	0	0
Prefer not to answer		1%	-1	0	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witnesse	d? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		55 %	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		46%	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		23%	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		21%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		24%	+3	-1	+1	+1
It was reported by someone else		17 %	+4	0	+2	+2
I did not report the behaviour		59 %	-7 ©	+1	-3	-2



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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	33%
Woman or female	63%
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	2%
No	98%

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

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	48%
No	52%

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	30%
No	70%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	70%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	1%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	1%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	14%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	3%
Southern and Eastern European	5%
South-East Asian	14%
North-East Asian	4%
Southern and Central Asian	7%
North American	1%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	1%
North African and Middle Eastern	2%
Sub-Saharan African	1%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	11%
No	72%
Maybe	12%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	5%

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Agency position

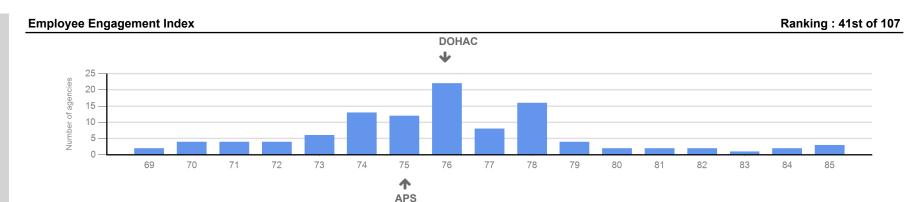


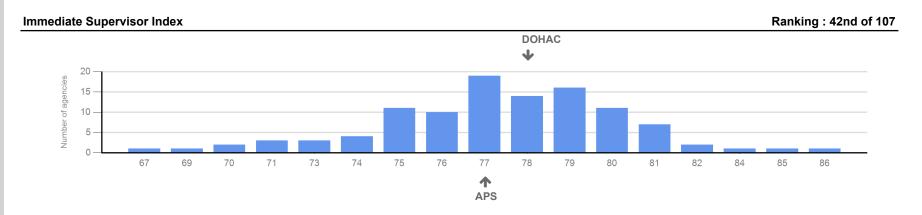
Agency position

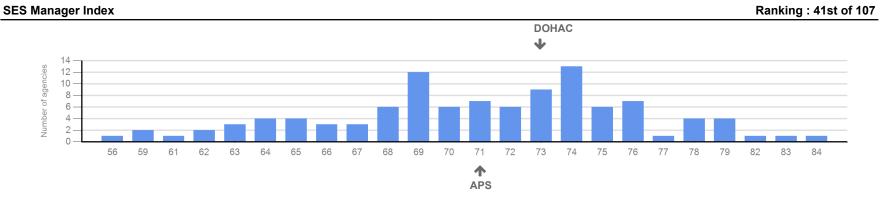
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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



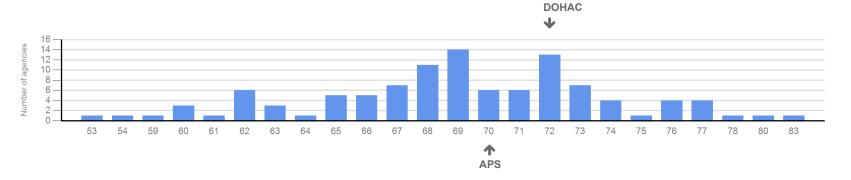
Agency position

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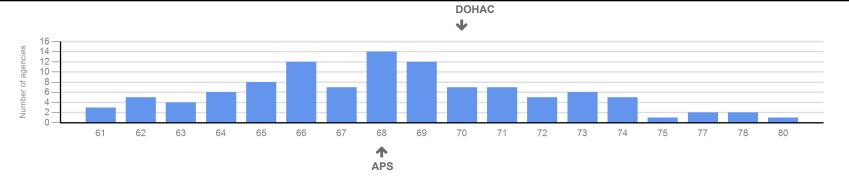
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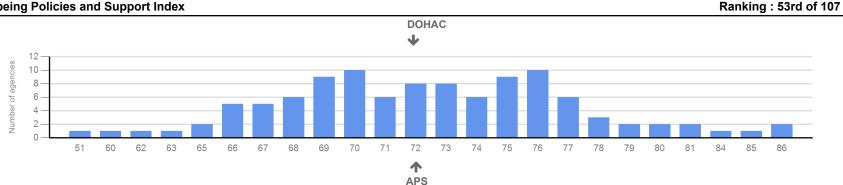




Enabling Innovation Index Ranking: 34th of 107



Wellbeing Policies and Support Index





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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 mparator 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	61%	+5 0	+3	+4	+4
.2	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	75 %	-3	+60	+2	+3
.3	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	73 %	+2	+3	+2	+3
.4	Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	77 %	-3	+5 0	+2	+2
.5	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	85%	+3	+3	+2	+3
.6	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	88%	+1	+4	+3	+3



DOHAC specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
My director demonstrates strong people management behaviour (e.g., empowers and develops others; builds an inclusive environment; and treats people with decency and respect)	82	12 82%	0
How satisfied are you with your connections with people within your immediate team?	88	88%	-
How satisfied are you with your connections with people outside of your immediate team?	71 22	7 71%	-
How satisfied are you with your ability to collaborate on work tasks with people in your team?	89	8 89%	-
How satisfied are you with your ability to collaborate on work tasks with people outside of your team?	71 21	71 %	-
I am given the chance to give feedback before changes at work are implemented	65 24	12 65%	-
Management considers staff feedback before making decisions about change	58 28	14 58%	-
Overall, how satisfied are you with the performance of your Group Head / Deputy?	72 2	72%	+1
Overall, how satisfied are you with the performance of your Division Head / FAS?	73 2	73 %	0
Overall, how satisfied are you with the performance of your Branch Head / Assistant Secretary?	76 1	7 7 76 %	-2

Australian Government

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Positive Neutral Negative

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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DOHAC specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
Overall, how satisfied are you with the performance of your Section Manager / Director?	83 11	83%	0

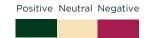
Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



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 s from what we are good at.	strengths and learn

Q	Investigate further with our teams			
Are there any other opportunities coming out of the results that 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					

2025 APS Employee Census

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Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

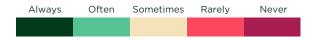
Guide to this report

% 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.

