

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

3,248 of 3,923

Response rate:

83%



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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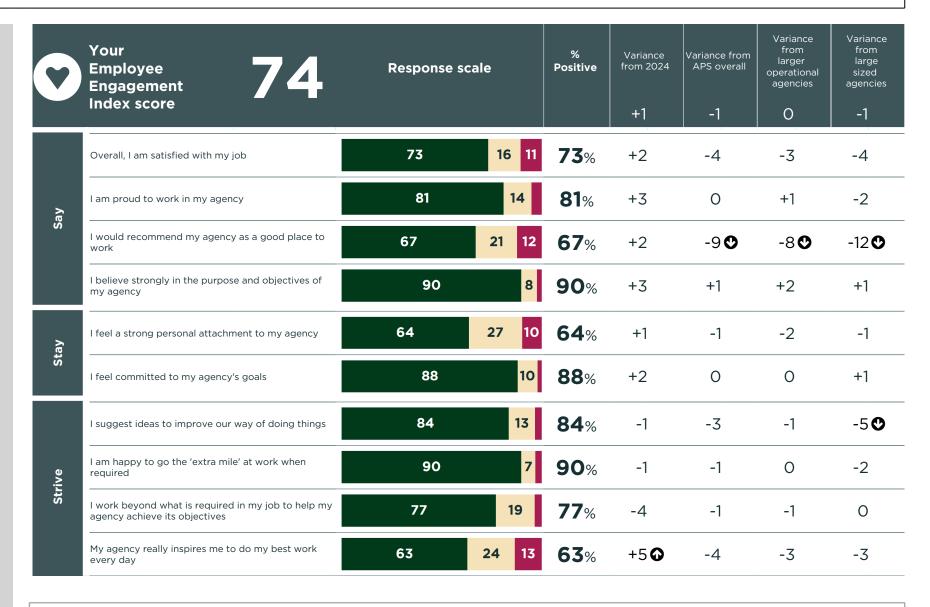


Employee Engagement: Say, Stay, Strive



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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	Index score				+2	O	O	-1
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	79 1	3 8	79 %	+3	-1	-1	-2
risor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	79 1	3 7	79 %	+2	0	0	-1
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	80 1	2 7	80%	+2	-2	-2	-3
ediate	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	82	12	82%	+3	0	-1	0
mm!	My supervisor is invested in my development	77 10	8	77 %	+3	-1	-1	-2
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	87	10	87%	+2	-2	-1	-2
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	79 1	3 8	79 %	+3	0	-1	0
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	77 1	5 7	77 %	+1	-1	0	-2
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	83	12	83%	+2	-2	-2	-2
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	78 1	5	78 %	+3	-3	-3	-3
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator		Positive Neutral Negative					

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

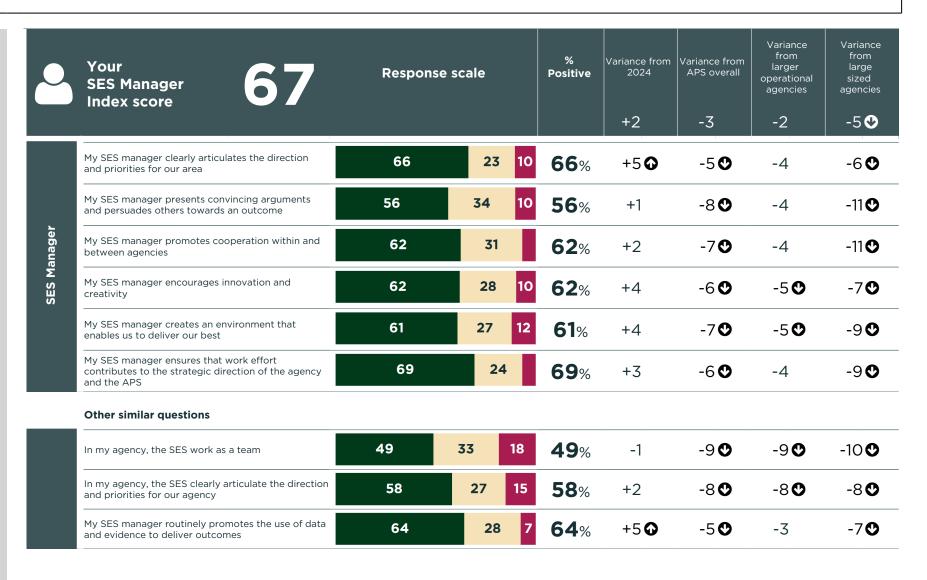
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Leadership - SES Manager



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

Positive Neutral Negative



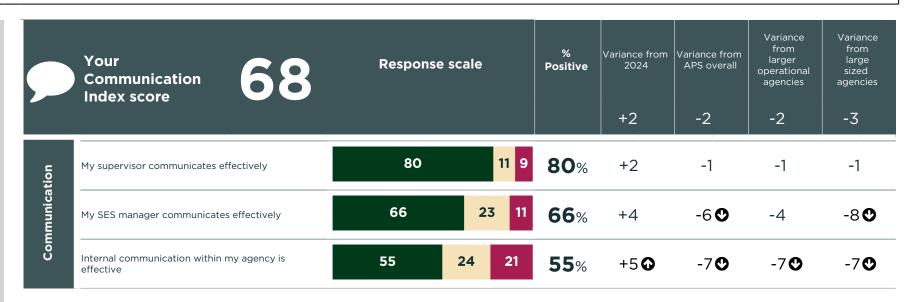
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Communication and change



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

	When changes occur, the impacts are communicated well within my workgroup	61		19 20	61%	+2	-7 ⊙	-7♥	-6♥
Change	Staff are consulted about change at work	43	34	23	43 %	+1	-9 0	-9♥	-80
	Change is managed well in my agency	35	29	36	35 %	0	-13 ♥	-14♥	-11 👁

Australian Government
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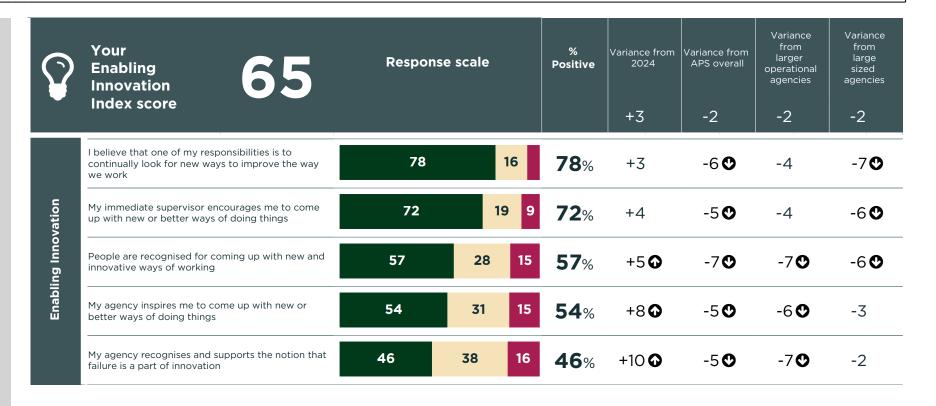
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Enabling Innovation



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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		10%	0	-1	-1	-2
Very good		34%	+1	-2	-1	-3
Good		38 %	+1	+1	0	+2
Fair		14%	-2	+1	0	+2
Poor		4%	0	+1	+1	+1
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		21%	-80	+4	+50	+50
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		40%	+1	+1	+1	+1
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		32 %	+5 0	-5♥	-7♥	-4
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		6%	+2	0	+1	-2
Well below capacity - not enough work		1%	0	0	0	-1

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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		7 %	-1	+2	+1	+3
Often		26%	-2	+3	+3	+4
Sometimes		49%	+3	-2	-1	-3
Rarely		16%	0	-4	-3	-5♥
Never		2%	0	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		11%	-2	+4	+3	+6♠
To a large extent		25%	0	+6 ♦	+4	+80
Somewhat		36 %	+1	-3	-3	-2
To a small extent		20%	+1	-4	-3	-7♥
To a very small extent		7 %	0	-2	-1	-4
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		10%	-2	+3	+3	+4
Agree		24%	-2	+3	+3	+4
Neither agree nor disagree		32 %	+1	0	-1	+1
Disagree		26%	+3	-5 O	-3	-7 ♥
Strongly disagree		7 %	-1	-1	0	-2

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

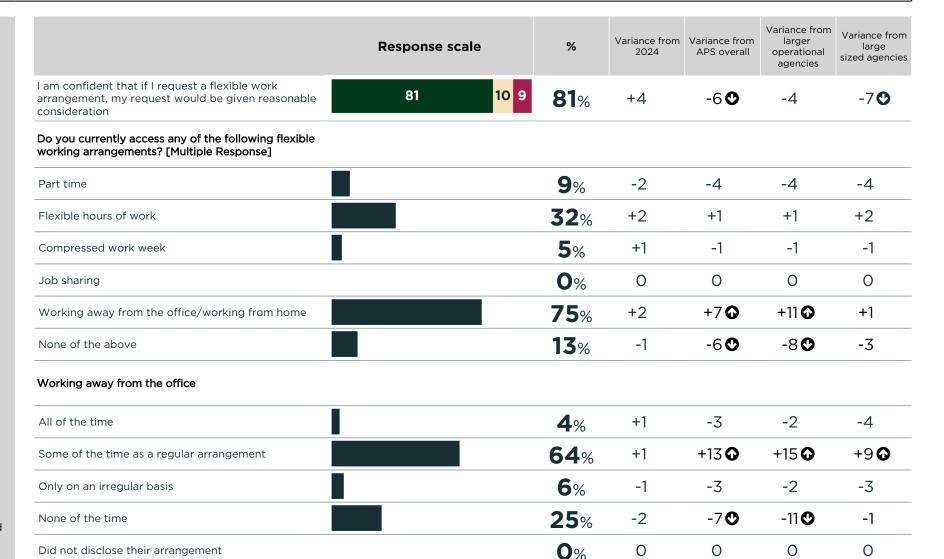
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Key

At least 5 percentage points greater 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

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Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

Working in the APS

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	65 21 14	65 %	+5 0	-4	-4	-5♥
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	73 21	73 %	+2	-4	-3	-5♥
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	74 15 11	74 %	+4	-7 ♥	-6♥	-8♥
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	88 10	88%	+2	0	0	-1
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	65 27 8	65 %	+2	-3	-4	-2
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	82 12	82%	0	-2	-1	-4
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	80 13	80%	-	-3	-2	-4
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	88 8	88%	-	-1	0	-2
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	77 14	77 %	+2	-2	-2	-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)	66 21 13	66%	-	-1	+2	-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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Job satisfaction

	Response	scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	64	20 16	64 %	+1	-5♥	-3	-8♥
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	72	15 13	72 %	+4	+6 ☆	+10 🚱	-1
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	83	10	83%	+5 ₽	-1	0	-4
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	79	11 10	79 %	+11 🚱	-7 ♥	-8 ♥	-6♥

Clarity and autonomy

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational 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	84 1	2 84%	+5♠	0	-1	+1
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	66 24	10 66%	0	-1	+3	-7 ©
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	66 17 1	7 66%	+1	-6♥	-4	-8♥

Key **G**

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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
In the last month, please rate your workgroup's overall performance						
Excellent		25%	-3	0	+1	0
Very good		57 %	+4	0	0	0
Average		16%	-1	0	-1	+1
Below average		2 %	-1	0	0	0
Well below average		1%	0	0	0	0

	Response s	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	76	14 10	76 %	+1	-3	-2	-4
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	51 2	28	51 %	-1	-9 0	-10 👁	-8 ©
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	73	19 9	73 %	0	-2	-2	-2
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	76	15 9	76 %	-1	-3	-2	-4
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	57	29 14	57 %	+2	-2	-3	0

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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts at position?	oout working in your current					
I want to leave my position as soon as possible		8%	-1	0	0	0
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months		21%	-1	0	+2	-2
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years		37 %	+2	-2	0	-6♥
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years		33 %	-1	+2	-2	+86
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current	nt position?					
I am planning to retire		4%	-1	-1	-2	+1
I am pursuing another position within my agency		41%	+4	-5 O	-12 🗷	-2
I am pursuing a position in another agency		28%	0	+3	+70	+1
I am pursuing work outside the APS		10%	0	+1	+2	+1
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment		2%	-6 O	0	+1	-1
Other		16%	+3	+2	+3	0

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 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.

Re	esponse scale %	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your current responses):	t position? (5 highest				
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity	19%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area	12%	-	-	-	-
Senior leadership is of a poor quality	8%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change	8%	-	-	-	-
I have achieved all I can in my current position	7 %	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

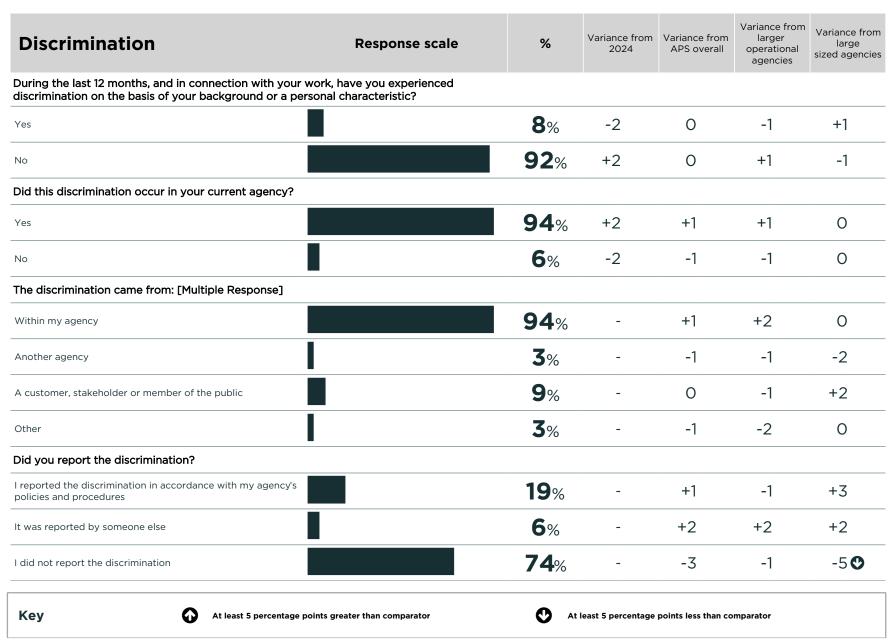


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Unacceptable behaviour



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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to bully workplace?	ying or harassment in your current					
Yes		11%	-1	+2	+1	+2
No		83%	0	-3	-2	-4
Not sure		6%	+1	+1	+1	+2
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest res	sponses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		48%	-	-	-	-
Inappropriate and unfair application of work policies or rules (e.g. performance management, access to leave, access to learning and development)		31 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		31 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		42 %	+3	+5 0	+3	+80
It was reported by someone else		7 %	+1	0	-1	0
I did not report the behaviour		51 %	-4	-5♥	-3	-8 👁



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 larger operational 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		3 %	-2	+1	+1	+1
No		91%	+3	-1	-1	-3
Not sure		5%	0	+1	0	+1
Prefer not to answer		2%	-1	0	0	+1
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witnesse	d? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		68%	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		33 %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		25 %	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		19%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		25 %	+50	0	-3	+2
It was reported by someone else		15%	+5♠	-2	-3	-1
I did not report the behaviour		59 %	-9 0	+2	+6 🐼	-1



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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	31%
Woman or female	64%
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	3%
No	97%

Do you have an ongoing disability?	Responses
Yes	14%
No	86%

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	40%
No	60%

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	22%
No	78%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	72%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	2%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	2%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	14%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	3%
Southern and Eastern European	5%
South-East Asian	10%
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	12%
No	69%
Maybe	11%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	8%

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Agency position

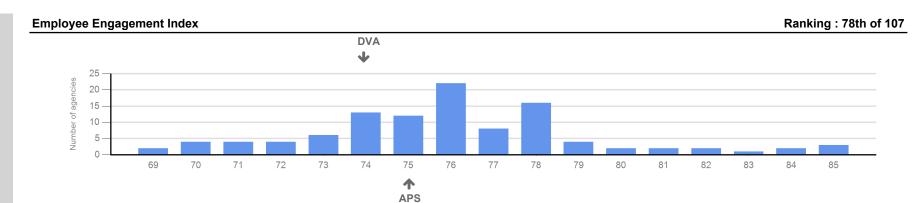


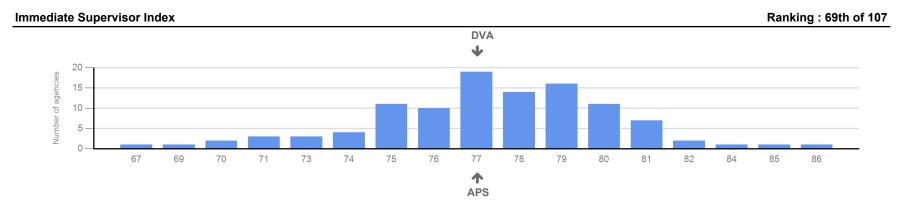
Agency position

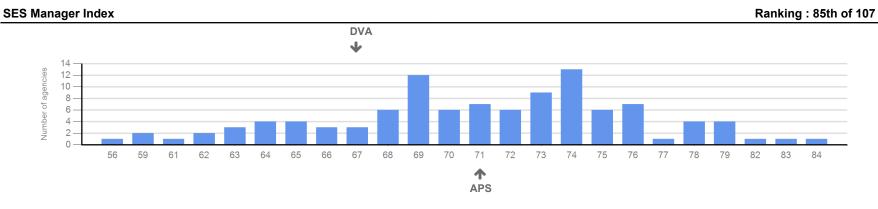
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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



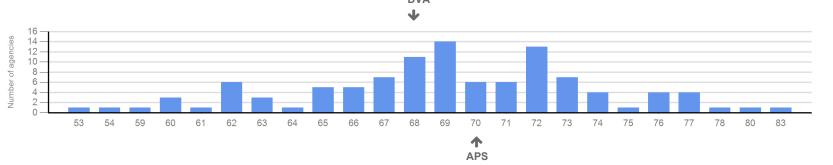
Agency position

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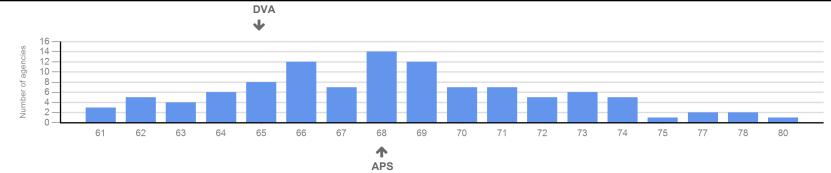
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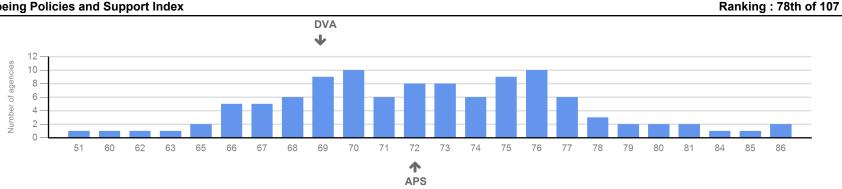




Ranking: 83rd of 107 **Enabling Innovation Index**



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.

	at 5 percentage points greater mparator At least 5 percentage points less than comparator	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
.1	My agency inspires me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	54 %	+80	-5 ⊙	-60	-3
.2	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	74 %	+4	-7 o	-6 º	-80
.3	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	64%	+1	-5 ⊙	-3	-80
.4	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	65 %	+5 0	-4	-4	-5 ⊙
.5	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	63 %	+4	-6 º	-4	-60
.6	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	77 %	+2	-7 o	-7 ⊙	-80

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

DVA specific questions

	Response	scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
I feel DVA has adequate tools and resources to support a psychologically safe workplace	60	25 15	60%	+2
During the past 12 months, I feel DVA provided increased access to tools and resources to support my wellbeing	54	33 13	54%	+5 ♠
I feel DVA has adequate support to enable positive and productive interactions with internal and external clients	61	28 11	61%	+3
During the past 12 months, I was provided with an opportunity to contribute new ideas and improvements to make positive changes at DVA	60	28 12	60%	+1
Outside of the formal recognition framework, I feel recognised for my contributions	57	27 17	57 %	+2
As a manager/supervisor, I have the capability to have meaningful performance conversations	72	24	72 %	0
I feel I have the capability to engage in meaningful performance conversations	79	16	79 %	-4
I feel I have the ability to support staff who identify as a person with a disability	74	22	74 %	+14 🟠
Over the past 12 months, I feel I received adequate training to understand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture	60	28 12	60%	+9♠
During the past 12 months, I feel DVA has advanced its Diversity and Inclusion initiatives, particularly through the enhancement of education and awareness campaigns and the engagement of Diversity committees	52	38 10	52 %	+3

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key



Positive Neutral Negative

DVA specific questions

	Response scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024
I feel I have the ability to deal with an emergency situation at work	69	22 10	69%	0
During the past 12 months, I feel there have been improvements made to our internal IT systems that support me to do my job more effectively	27 32	41	27 %	+5 ⊘
My manager/supervisor has the ability to interpret and communicate DVA's strategic priorities to drive team outcomes	73	19 7	73 %	-
My immediate supervisor provides me with time and support to attend workplace training	81	14	81%	-
In the DVA, the SES are sufficiently visible (e.g. can be seen in action)	51	28 21	51 %	-

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		
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					

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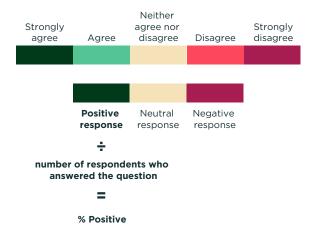
Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

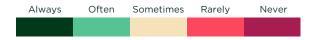
Guide to this report

% 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.

