

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

744 of 1,015

Response rate:

73%



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



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 regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
	Index score			0	-3	-3	-3
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	75 14 11	75 %	0	-5♥	-5♥	-5♥
visor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	75 15 10	75 %	-1	-5♥	-5♥	-4
Superv	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	79 11 10	79%	0	-3	-5 0	-3
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	78 15 8	78%	0	-5♥	-5♥	-4
<u> </u>	My supervisor is invested in my development	75 13 12	75 %	+1	-3	-3	-3
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	85 9	85%	0	-3	-4	-3
	Other similar questions						
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	72 15 12	72 %	-3	-7 ♥	-6♥	-5 ♥
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	75 16 8	75 %	+2	-2	-4	-3
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	79 13	79%	0	-5 ♥	-5♥	-4
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	78 12 9	78%	+1	-3	-3	-3
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage points less t	nan comparator		Positive N	Neutral Negative	9

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

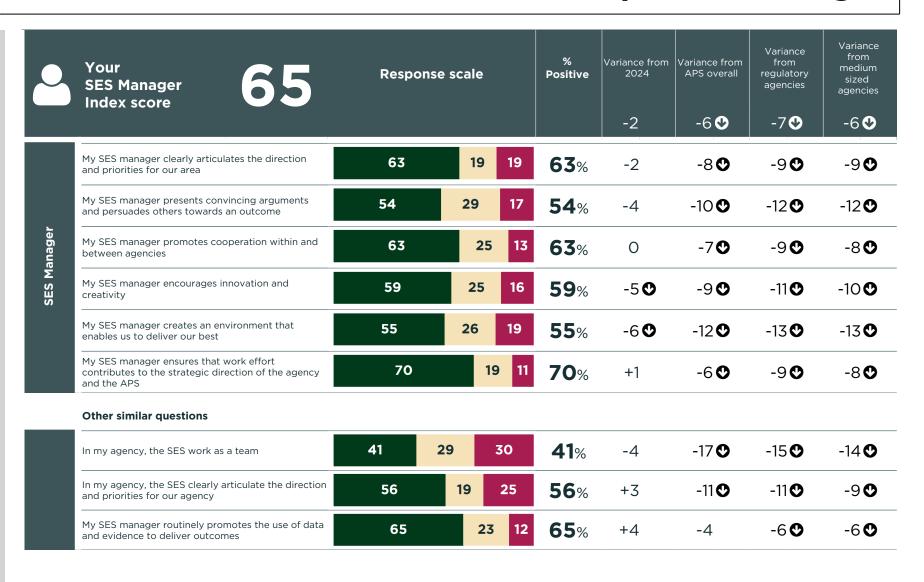
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Leadership - SES Manager



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



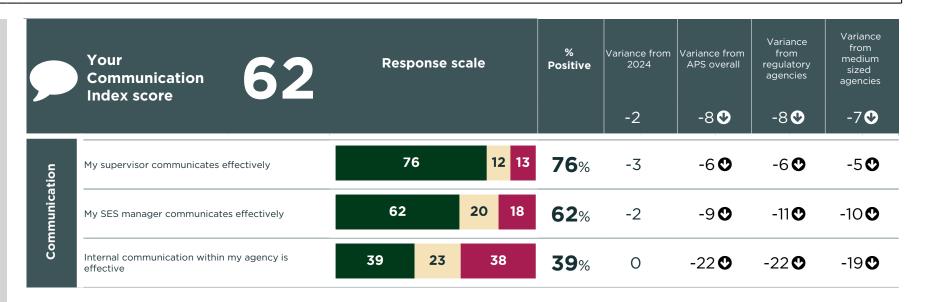
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Communication and change



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	54		19	27	54%	-4	-13 O	-13 ♥	-12 ♥
Change	Staff are consulted about change at work	39		39	23	39 %	-2	-13 👁	-13 ♥	-11 👁
	Change is managed well in my agency	27	29		45	27 %	-2	-21♥	-19♥	-17 ♥

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

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

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.

	Your Enabling Innovation Index score	Respons	se scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024 +1	Variance from APS overall -4	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
	I believe that one of my responsibilities is to continually look for new ways to improve the way we work	81		12	81%	+2	-2	-2	-3
Innovation	My immediate supervisor encourages me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	74		15 12	74 %	+2	-3	-4	-4
	People are recognised for coming up with new and innovative ways of working	50	30	20	50%	-1	-14 •	-15 ♥	-13♥
Enabling	My agency inspires me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	50	28	22	50%	+1	-9 ♥	-9♥	-10 👁
	My agency recognises and supports the notion that failure is a part of innovation	48	33	19	48%	+80	-3	-3	-1

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 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.

#	Your Wellbeing Policies and Support Index score	Response	scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies -8 ♥	Variance from medium sized agencies
Support	I am satisfied with the policies/practices in place to help me manage my health and wellbeing	60	22	17	60%	+10 🚱	-13 ♥	-15♥	-12♥
and	My agency does a good job of communicating what it can offer me in terms of health and wellbeing	59	23	18	59 %	+80	-12 0	-16 ♥	-12 O
Policies	My agency does a good job of promoting health and wellbeing	58	24	18	58 %	+7 &	-12 O	-16 O	-13 👁
Wellbeing F	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	58	23	19	58 %	+2	-10 👁	-15 ♥	-12 🗷
Well	I believe my immediate supervisor cares about my health and wellbeing	85		8 7	85 %	+1	-2	-3	-3
	Other similar questions								
бг	If I felt it was needed, I would feel comfortable discussing my mental health and wellbeing with my supervisor	73	12	15	73 %	+3	-3	-4	-4
Wellbeing	I receive the respect I deserve from my colleagues at work	75	2	0	75 %	-3	-7 O	-7 ♥	-6 0
- >	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	71	17	12	71 %	+3	-13 ♥	-14 •	-11 👁

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

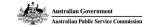
	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		8%	-3	-3	-4	-4
Very good		38 %	+6�	+3	+1	+2
Good		37 %	-3	0	+1	+1
Fair		13%	+1	0	+2	+1
Poor		3 %	0	0	+1	0
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		21%	-2	+5 ⊘	+3	+2
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		41%	0	+2	+2	+2
At capacity - about the right amount of work to do		30 %	+1	-7♥	-4	-3
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		6%	+1	-1	-1	-1
Well below capacity - not enough work		2%	0	0	0	0

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 regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		4%	0	0	+1	0
Often		26%	+1	+3	+5♠	+4
Sometimes		52 %	0	+2	0	+2
Rarely		15%	-1	-5♥	-5♥	-6♥
Never		2%	0	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		9%	-2	+2	+3	+3
To a large extent		25%	+5♠	+6�	+80	+7 ♦
Somewhat		40%	-1	+1	+1	+2
To a small extent		19%	-1	-6♥	-80	-8 O
To a very small extent		7 %	0	-3	-4	-4
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		8%	0	0	+1	0
Agree		24%	0	+3	+4	+3
Neither agree nor disagree		31 %	+1	-2	0	0
Disagree		31 %	0	0	-3	-2
Strongly disagree		7 %	-1	-1	-2	-2

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

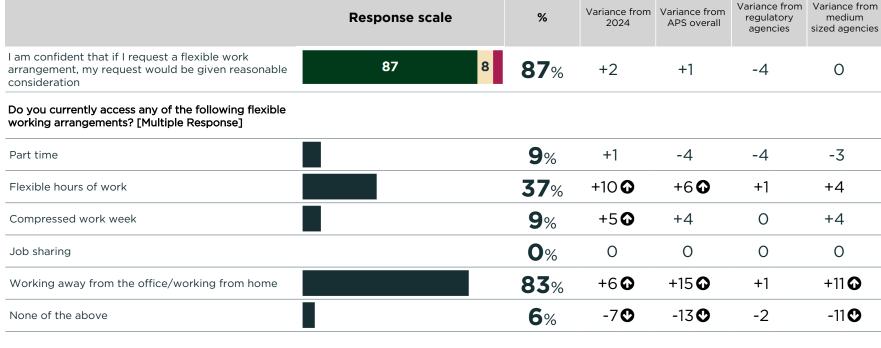
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Key

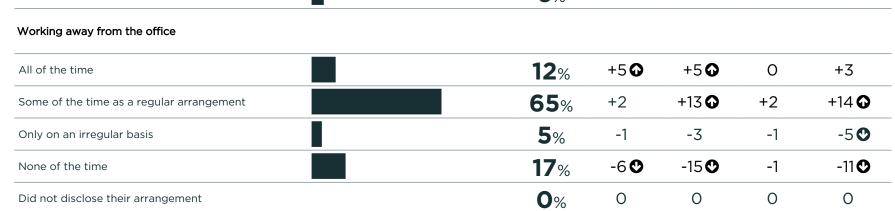
At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

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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Working in the APS

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	58 22 20	58 %	-2	-11♥	-10 ♥	-10 👁
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	70 22 7	70%	-2	-6♥	-8♥	-80
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	65 18 17	65%	+2	-16♥	-17 ♥	-16 ♥
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	90 8	90%	0	+2	0	+2
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	67 24 9	67 %	+2	-1	0	+3
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	83 10 7	83%	+1	-2	-5♥	-3
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	76 15 9	76 %	-	-8♥	-10 ♥	-9♥
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	85 8	85%	-	-3	-5♥	-4
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	75 12 13	75 %	-3	-5♥	-6♥	-5♥
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	-6 ©	-5♥

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 so	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	60	19 21	60%	-7♥	-9 0	-9 O	-9 ©
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	66	16 18	66%	+5 ♠	0	0	-1
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	87	7	87 %	+7 0	+3	-1	+2
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	74	13 13	74 %	-6♥	-12 ♥	-10 👁	-8♥

Clarity and autonomy

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I understand how my role contributes to achieving an outcome for the Australian public	91	91%	-1	-2	-2	-2
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	76 18	76 %	+10 🐼	-8 👁	-7 0	-6 0
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	69 22	9 69%	+1	+1	-4	-5♥
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	66 16 18	66%	-5♥	-6 O	-7 O	-7 O

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	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In the last month, please rate your workgroup's overall performance						
Excellent		19%	-3	-6 👁	-6 👁	-80
Very good		55 %	0	-2	-2	-1
Average		21%	+2	+5 ♦	+5♠	+70
Below average		4 %	+1	+2	+2	+2
Well below average		1%	0	+1	+1	+1

	Response	scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	68	16 17	68%	0	-11 👁	-12 O	-12 O
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	35 24	41	35 %	-3	-25♥	-19 ♥	-20 ♥
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	66	20 14	66%	-4	-9 0	-10 ♥	-10 ♥
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	70	14 15	70%	-9 0	-9 0	-10 ♥	-9 ♥
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	54	29 17	54 %	+4	-5♥	-4	-4

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

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

Retention



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

Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium 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	10%	+1	+1	+2	+2
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	26%	+60	+4	+5 ♠	+5 ♠
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	37 %	-80	-2	-5♥	-4
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	27 %	0	-4	-2	-3
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	2%	+1	-3	-2	-1
I am pursuing another position within my agency	24%	- 17 ♥	-21♥	-9 0	-3
I am pursuing a position in another agency	43%	+80	+18 🚱	+80	+5 ☆
I am pursuing work outside the APS	8%	+2	-1	-3	-3
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	6%	-1	+3	+2	-1
Other	17 %	+80	+4	+3	+3

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.

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your curresponses):	rrent position? (5 highest					
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity		17 %	-	-	-	-
Senior leadership is of a poor quality		12%	-	-	-	-
My expectations for work in my current position have not been met		9%	-	-	-	-
There are a lack of future career opportunities in my agency		8%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area		7 %	-	-	-	-

Key At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

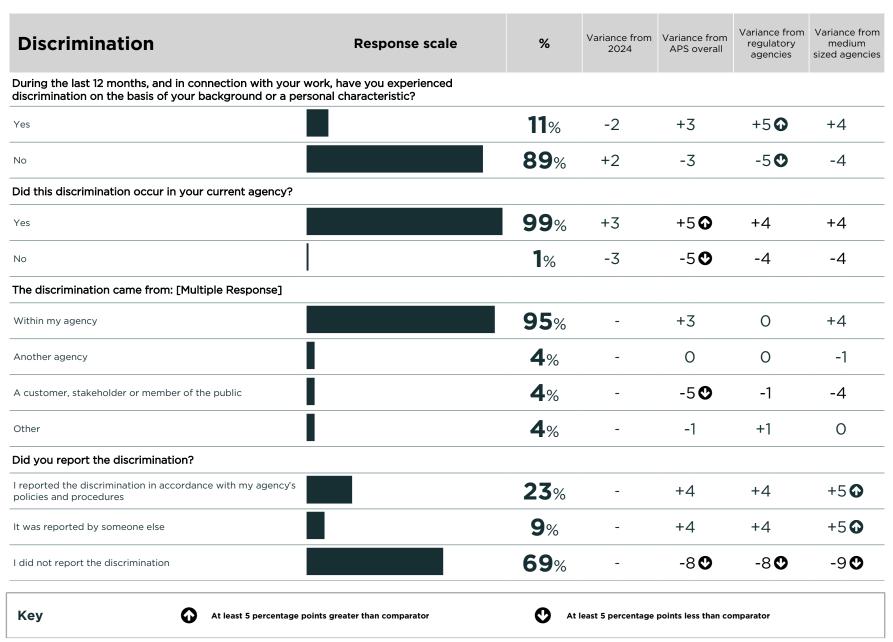
Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

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 regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to be workplace?	ullying or harassment in your curren	t				
Yes		16%	-3	+70	+80	+7♦
No		80%	+50	-6 ©	-80	-7 ♥
Not sure		4 %	-2	0	0	0
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest	responses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		52 %	-	-	-	-
Deliberate exclusion from work-related activities		33 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		30 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		45%	+9	+80	+80	+10 🐼
It was reported by someone else		6%	-4	-1	-2	-2
I did not report the behaviour		49%	-5♥	-7♥	-7 ♥	-80

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2025 APS Employee Census

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 regulatory agencies	Variance fro medium sized agenci
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reported you observed a public official engaging in conduct in yo to be corruption?						
Yes		5%	-2	+3	+3	+3
No		85%	+1	-7♥	-7♥	-7 ♥
Not sure		7 %	+2	+3	+3	+3
Prefer not to answer		2%	-1	+1	+1	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witness	ed? [Multiple Response]					
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		56%	-	-	-	-
Abuse of office		51 %	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		21%	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		18%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?				-		
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		38 %	+20 🚳	+13 🐼	+16 🐼	+17 🐼
It was reported by someone else		23%	0	+60	+60	+50
I did not report the behaviour		38 %	-20♥	-19♥	-23♥	-22♥
Key At least 5 percentage po	oints greater than comparator	O At	least 5 percentage	points less than co	mparator	



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Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	31%
Woman or female	63%
Non-binary	2%
I use a different term	0%
Prefer not to say	5%

Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	Responses
Yes	4%
No	96%

Do you have an ongoing disability?	Responses
Yes	22%
No	78%

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	49%
No	51%

Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and/or Asexual (LGBTIQA+)?	Responses
Yes	13%
No	87%

Do you identify as culturally or linguistically diverse?	Responses
Yes	24%
No	76%

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	3%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	2%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	2%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	14%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	2%
Southern and Eastern European	7%
South-East Asian	9%
North-East Asian	2%
Southern and Central Asian	3%
North American	1%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	2%
North African and Middle Eastern	2%
Sub-Saharan African	2%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	15%
No	68%
Maybe	11%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	5%

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Agency position

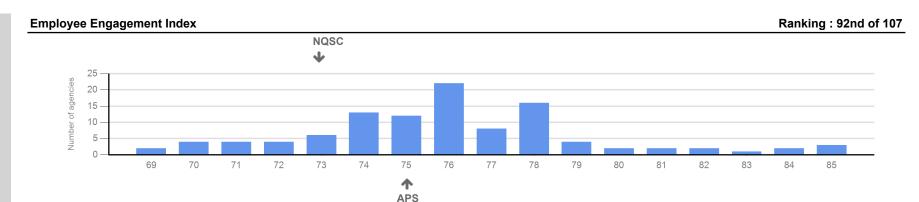


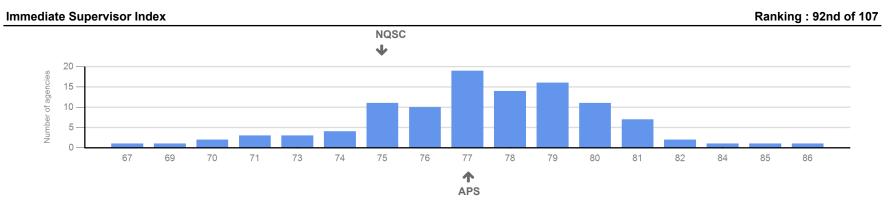
Agency position

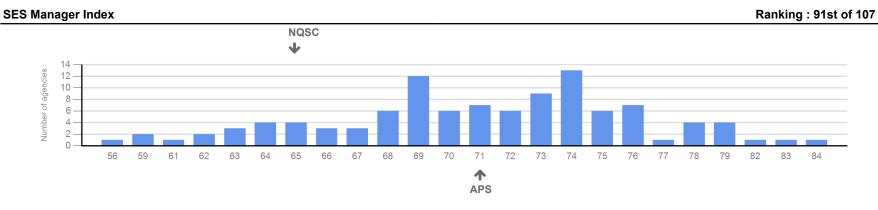
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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



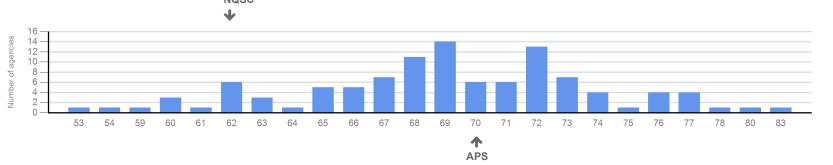
Agency position

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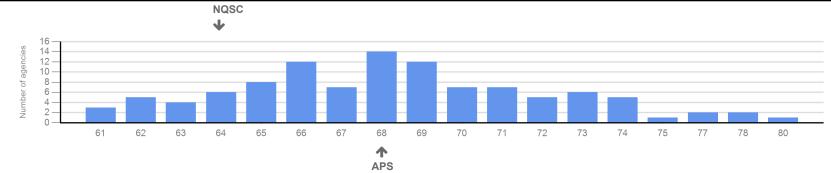
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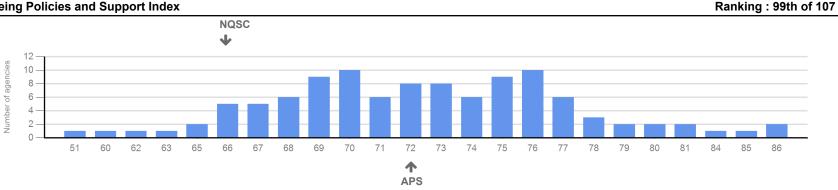




Ranking: 93rd of 107 **Enabling Innovation Index**



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.

	5 percentage points greater nparator At least 5 percentage points less than comparator	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from regulatory agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
.1	My agency inspires me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	50 %	+1	-9 ⊙	-9 0	-100
.2	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	58 %	-2	-110	-100	-100
.3	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	60%	-7 o	-9 o	-9 0	-9 o
.4	My SES manager creates an environment that enables us to deliver our best	55 %	-60	-12 º	-13 º	- 13 ⊙
.5	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	58 %	+2	-100	-15 º	-12 o
.6	People are recognised for coming up with new and innovative ways of working	50 %	-1	-140	- 15 ⊙	-13♥

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NQSC specific questions

	Respons	e scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024
My agency acted on concerns identified in the 2024 APS Employee Census and communicates effectively on the progress of work	42	39	19	42 %	-
I am able to utilise dedicated time to undertake learning and development activities necessary for my role	63	18	19	63 %	-
In the last 12 months, I can see that the psychosocial safety at the commission has improved, and I feel more comfortable in my role	46	31	23	46%	-
My peers contribute to a supportive and inclusive workplace culture for people with disabilities, fostering mutual respect and understanding	77		18	77 %	-
Staff with disabilities have equal opportunities for promotion and career advancement within the organisation	64	28	8	64%	-

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 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:	ed to focus on and turn into actio
	things we need to improve to make



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					

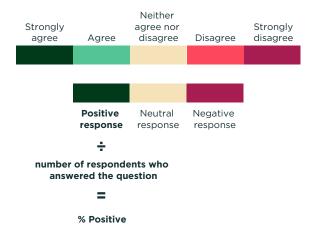
Australian Government

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 = 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.