

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

5,233 of 7,236

Response rate:

72%



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.

	Your Employee Engagement	Response sc	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	Index score				+1	0	0	-1
	Overall, I am satisfied with my job	78	13 8	78 %	+1	+1	+2	+1
Say	I am proud to work in my agency	81	15	81%	+3	0	+1	-2
ι	I would recommend my agency as a good place to work	78	14 8	78 %	+5♠	+2	+3	-1
	I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of my agency	88	10	88%	+3	0	+1	0
Stay	I feel a strong personal attachment to my agency	64	26 10	64%	+1	-1	-2	-1
St	I feel committed to my agency's goals	87	10	87 %	+2	-1	-1	0
	I suggest ideas to improve our way of doing things	88	10	88%	-2	+1	+3	-1
Strive	I am happy to go the 'extra mile' at work when required	90	7	90%	-1	0	0	-1
Str	I work beyond what is required in my job to help my agency achieve its objectives	77	19	77 %	-4	-1	-2	0
	My agency really inspires me to do my best work every day	64	25 12	64%	+7 0	-3	-3	-3

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

Positive Neutral Negative

2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 03.

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

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				+1	0	0	-1
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	79	14	79 %	+1	-1	-1	-2
risor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	80	14	80%	+1	0	0	0
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	82	12	82%	+2	-1	0	-2
ediate	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	81	14	81%	+2	-2	-2	-2
mm m	My supervisor is invested in my development	78	15	78 %	+2	0	0	-1
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	87	9	87%	+1	-1	-1	-2
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	78	14 8	78 %	+3	-1	-2	0
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	78	16	78 %	+3	0	+1	-1
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	83	11	83%	+1	-1	-1	-1
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	81	14	81%	+2	-1	0	-1
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage po	ints less th	an comparator		Positive N	leutral Negative	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

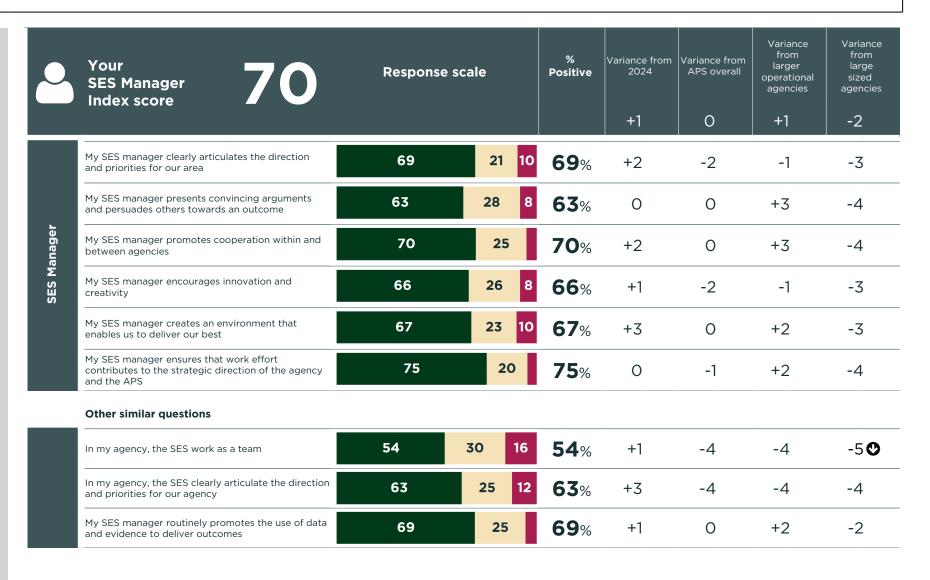
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Leadership - SES Manager



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



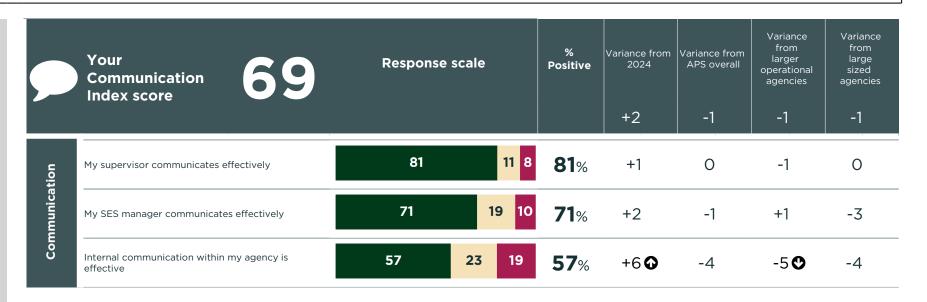
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Communication and change



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	67		18 15	67 %	0	-1	-1	0
Staff are consulted about change at work	54	33	13	54%	+3	+2	+1	+2
Change is managed well in my agency	43	32	26	43%	+6�	-5♥	-6♥	-3

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

Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

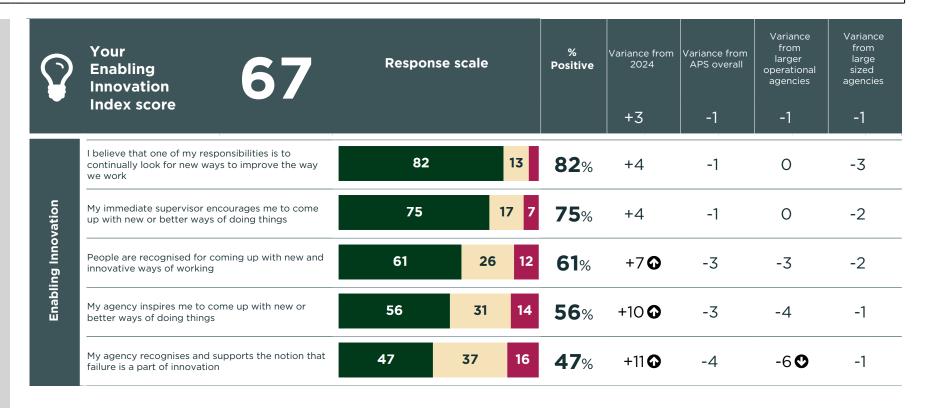
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Enabling Innovation



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		12%	+2	+1	+1	0
Very good		37 %	+2	+1	+2	0
Good		37 %	-1	-1	-2	+1
Fair		11%	-2	-2	-2	-1
Poor		3 %	0	0	0	0
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		15%	-10 🔮	-2	-1	-2
Slightly above capacity – lots of work to do		38 %	-1	-1	-1	0
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		39 %	+9 ♦	+2	0	+3
Slightly below capacity – available for more work		7 %	+2	+1	+2	-1
Well below capacity - not enough work		2%	0	0	0	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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		3 %	-1	-2	-2	-1
Often		21%	-3	-2	-3	-1
Sometimes		51 %	0	0	+1	-1
Rarely		23%	+3	+3	+4	+2
Never		3 %	+1	0	0	+1
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		4%	-2	-3	-4	-1
To a large extent		17 %	-2	-3	-5♥	-1
Somewhat		40%	0	0	0	+1
To a small extent		27 %	+1	+3	+5 0	+1
To a very small extent		12%	+2	+2	+3	0
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		6%	-2	-2	-2	-1
Agree		19%	-4	-2	-3	-1
Neither agree nor disagree		33%	+2	+1	0	+2
Disagree		33%	+3	+2	+3	0
Strongly disagree		9%	+2	+1	+2	0

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

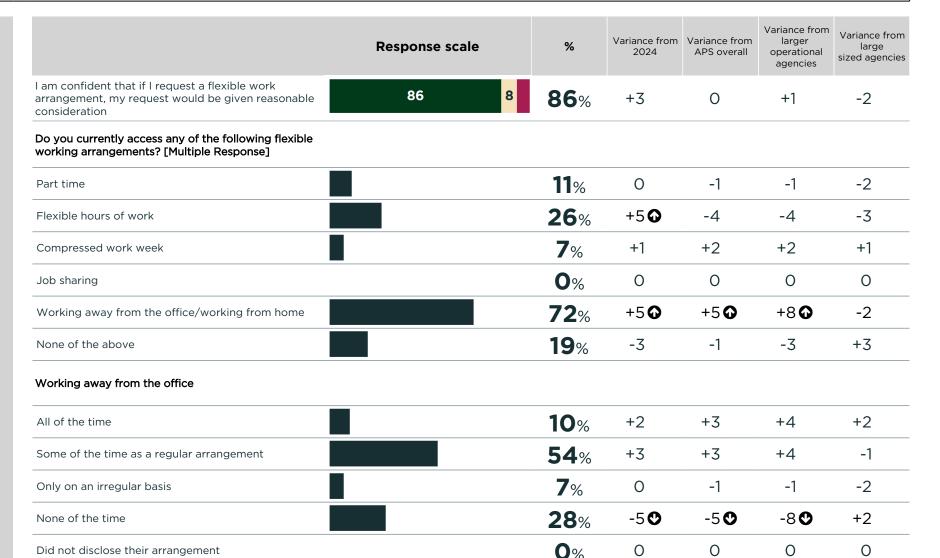
Key

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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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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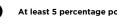
Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

Working in the APS

	Response sca	ale	% 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	69	19 12	69%	+5♠	0	0	-1
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	75	19	75 %	0	-1	0	-3
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	80	12 8	80%	+5 0	-1	-1	-2
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	88	11	88%	+3	-1	-1	-1
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	66	25 9	66%	+6♠	-3	-4	-2
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	84	11	84%	0	-1	+1	-2
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	82	12	82%	-	-2	-1	-3
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	79	13 8	79 %	0	-1	0	-2
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 less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative

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Job satisfaction

	Response s	cale	% 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	70	17 13	70 %	+2	+2	+4	-1
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	69	16 15	69%	+4	+4	+80	-3
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	84	10	84%	+4	0	+1	-2
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	85	9	85%	0	-1	-3	0

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	94	94%	-1	+1	+1	+1
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	86 12	86%	+4	+1	0	+2
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	72 20	72 %	+4	+5 0	+9 🚱	-1
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	74 15 1	74 %	0	+2	+4	0

Key

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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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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%	-2	0	+1	0
Very good		57 %	+2	0	0	0
Average		16%	0	0	-1	+1
Below average		2%	0	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	80	13 7	80%	+1	+1	+2	0
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	62	20 18	62 %	+6	+3	+1	+3
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	73	17 10	73 %	0	-1	-1	-1
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	80	12 8	80%	-2	0	+1	-1
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	61	29 10	61%	+60	+1	0	+4

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.

F	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 abposition?	out working in your current					
I want to leave my position as soon as possible		7 %	-1	-2	-2	-2
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months		18%	-2	-3	-2	-5♥
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years		42 %	+3	+3	+5♠	-1
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years		34 %	+1	+3	-1	+80
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your curren	t position?					
I am planning to retire		5 %	-1	0	-1	+1
I am pursuing another position within my agency		44%	+1	-2	-9♥	+1
I am pursuing a position in another agency		25%	+2	0	+5♠	-2
I am pursuing work outside the APS		8%	+1	0	+1	-1
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment		3 %	-2	+1	+2	0
Other		15%	0	+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.

Response	e 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 position responses):	n? (5 highest				
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity	18%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area	13%	-	-	-	-
Senior leadership is of a poor quality	10%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change	10%	-	-	-	-
I am not satisfied with the work	6 %	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

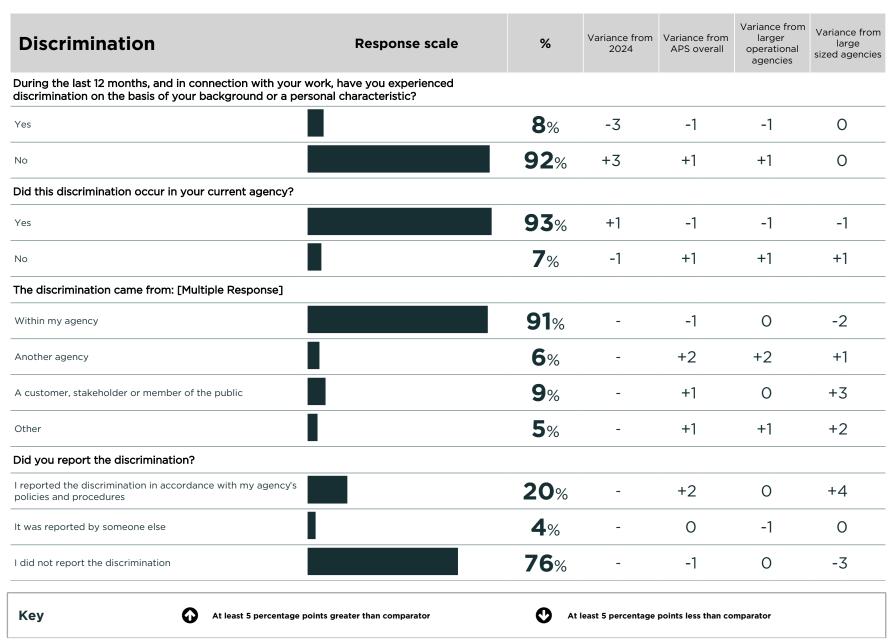


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Unacceptable behaviour



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?	ing or harassment in your current					
Yes		9%	-3	-1	-1	Ο
No		87 %	+4	+1	+2	0
Not sure		4%	-1	0	0	0
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest resp	oonses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		50 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		45 %	-	-	-	-
Inappropriate and unfair application of work policies or rules (e.g. performance management, access to leave, access to learning and development)		30 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		36 %	-4	-1	-3	+1
It was reported by someone else		6%	0	-1	-1	-1
I did not report the behaviour		58%	+4	+3	+4	-1

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 larger operational agencies	Variance from large sized agencie
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reporter you observed a public official engaging in conduct in yo to be corruption?						
Yes		2%	-2	0	0	0
No		92%	+2	0	+1	-1
Not sure		4%	0	0	0	+1
Prefer not to answer		2%	-1	0	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witnes:	sed? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		70 %	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		31 %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		25%	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		24%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		33 %	+80	+80	+5 0	+10 🐼
It was reported by someone else		14%	-3	-3	-4	-2
I did not report the behaviour		53 %	-5♥	-4	-1	-80
		•				



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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	43%
Woman or female	53%
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	11%
No	89%

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	44%
No	56%

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	26%
No	74%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	73%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	3%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	2%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	1%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	15%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	3%
Southern and Eastern European	6%
South-East Asian	10%
North-East Asian	3%
Southern and Central Asian	4%
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	10%
No	71%
Maybe	12%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	7%

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Agency position

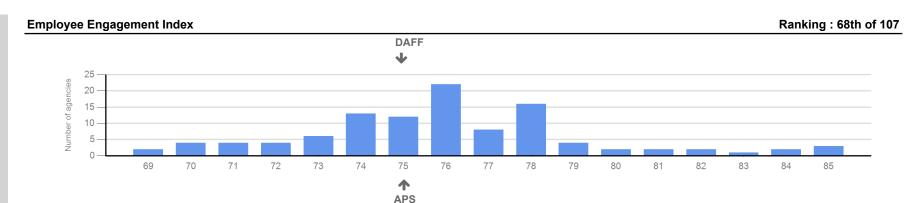


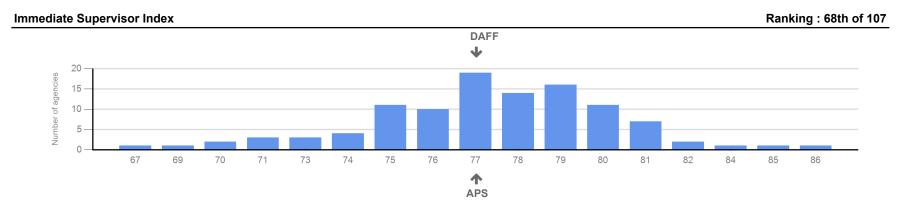
Agency position

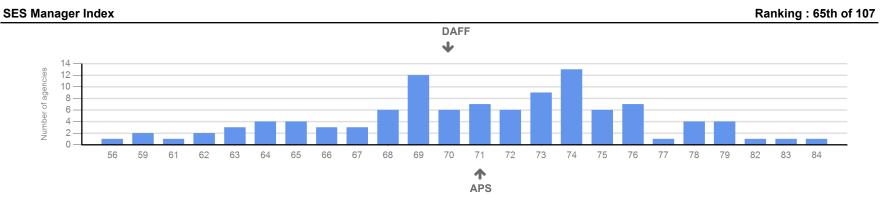
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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

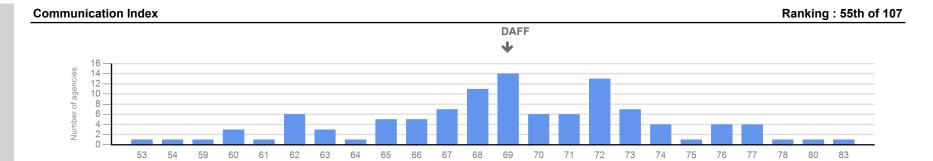


Agency position

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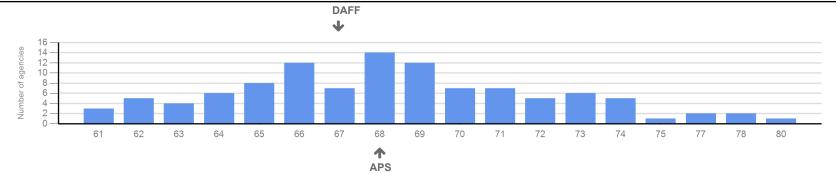
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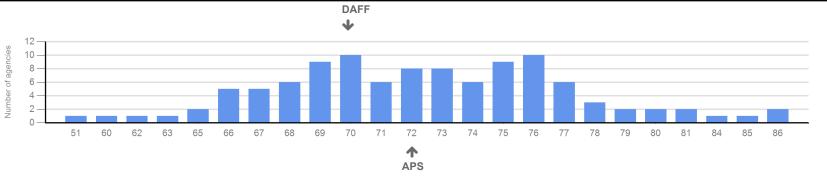




APS



Wellbeing Policies and Support Index





Ranking: 69th 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.

	S percentage points greater Mat 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	56 %	+100	-3	-4	-1
.2	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	70 %	+2	+2	+4	-1
.3	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	69%	+5 0	0	0	-1
.4	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	80%	+5 0	-1	-1	-2
.5	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	66%	+5 0	-2	-1	-3
.6	I feel I have the same opportunities as anyone else of my ability or experience	71 %	+1	+3	+4	+1



DAFF specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
I understand how my work contributes to the Department's strategic priorities	92	92%	+1
My work area strives to continuously improve by undertaking regular evaluation of our programs to understand their effectiveness, efficiency and appropriateness	70 22 9	70%	+4
I have a clear understanding of how my role assists the department with building a more sustainable and prosperous Australia through biosecurity, production and trade	91 7	91%	+1
Conflicts of interest are declared and actively managed in my work area	80 17	80%	+4
My supervisor has the capability to lead a hybrid team. (i.e. remote workers, contractors)	85 11	85%	+2
My workgroup applies the OneDAFF approach and Core 4 values in our day-to-day work	77 18	77 %	-
I feel comfortable bringing my authentic self to work	79 13 8	79 %	+4
My agency is committed to creating a diverse workforce (i.e. gender, age, cultural and linguistic background, disability, neurodiversity, First Nations, LGBTIQA+)	82 15	82%	+3
All safety accidents and near misses are promptly reported and investigated in my workplace	69 28	69%	+3
My supervisor always puts my safety first despite the urgency to get the job done	85 12	85%	+2

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

Positive Neutral Negative

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

0

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

DAFF specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
I feel that I can take initiative to look for better ways of doing things to create a safe working environment	81 15	81%	+3
Senior leaders ensure safety comes first in this department/organisation	74 21	74%	+4
I am aware of the digital risks faced in my workgroup. (i.e. online privacy, computer security, appropriate use of social networking, and protecting digital assets)	94	94%	+2
My immediate supervisor readily adapts to and models workplace change	79 16	79 %	-
My SES supervisor readily adapts to and models workplace change	69 25	69%	-

Key



0

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

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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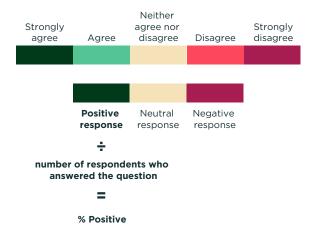
Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

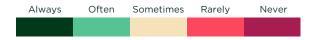
Guide to this report

% 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.

