

# **2025 APS Employee Census**

5 May - 6 June

# Highlights Report

Responses:

4,403 of 5,177

Response rate:

85%



#### **Exploring your results**



Take time to understand your report. Consider your response rate to determine how representative your results are of the views of your colleagues.



Most questions in this report have information about the proportion of colleagues responding positively, neutrally or negatively.



Identify the areas where you are performing well. These will tend to be high results which are notably above any comparative results. Celebrate these results.



Identify areas that need improvement. These tend to be the low results, which are notably below comparisons.



Generally a difference of -/+ 5 percentage points is worthy of attention, but the size of the group is important. Changes in small groups can be unreliable.

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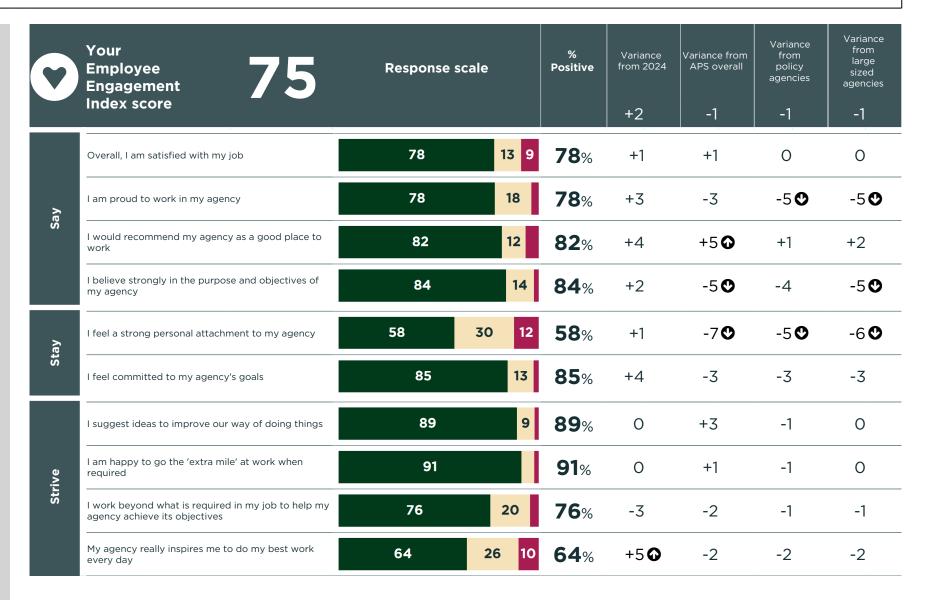
#### **Employee Engagement: Say, Stay, Strive**



# **Employee Engagement**

Employee engagement is more than simply job satisfaction or commitment to an organisation. It is the extent to which employees are motivated, inspired and enabled to improve an organisation's outcomes.

Kev



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	O	0	0
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	82 12	2	82%	+1	+1	+1	+1
visor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	81 13	3	81%	+1	+1	+1	+1
Super	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	84 1	10	84%	+1	+2	0	+1
Immediate Supervisor	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	84	11	84%	+1	+1	+1	+1
F F	My supervisor is invested in my development	76 16	8	76%	+1	-2	-2	-2
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	89	7	89%	0	+1	0	0
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	79 13	8	<b>79</b> %	+2	0	+1	+1
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	78 15	5	<b>78</b> %	+1	+1	0	0
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	85	10	85%	0	+1	0	+1
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	81 1	3	81%	+1	0	-1	-1
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage points le	ess than c	omparator		Positive N	eutral Negative	<u> </u>

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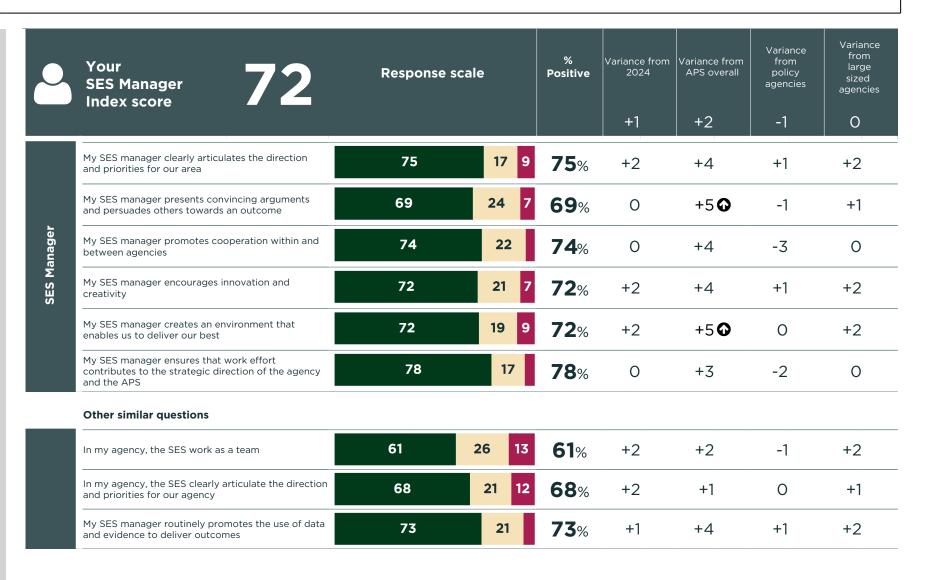
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#### **Leadership - SES Manager**



#### **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



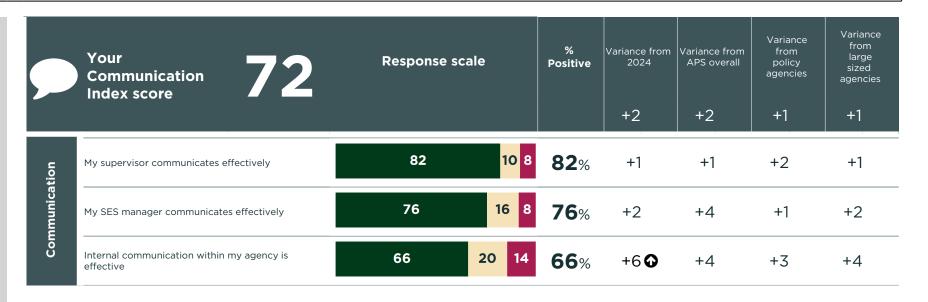
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#### **Communication and change**



#### 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	70	16 13	70%	+2	+3	+3	+3
Staff are consulted about change at work	55	33 12	<b>55</b> %	+2	+3	+3	+3
Change is managed well in my agency	55	26 19	<b>55</b> %	+7 <b>•</b>	+7 <b>•</b>	+7 <b>•</b>	+9 <b>0</b>

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

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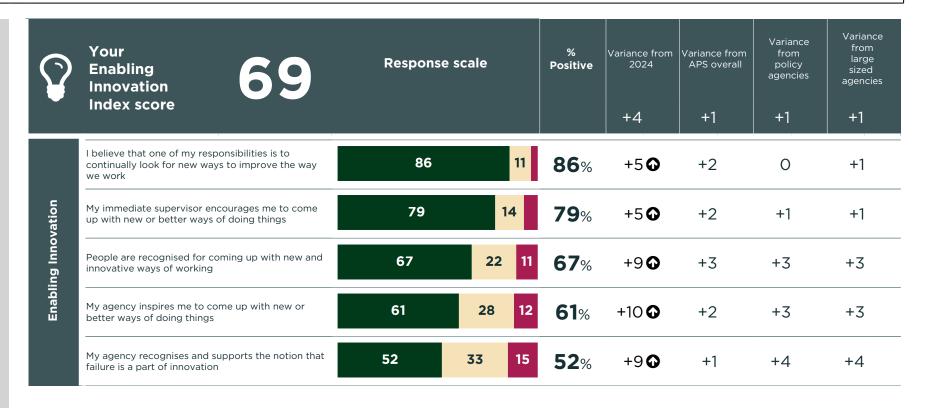
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#### **Enabling Innovation**



#### **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.





Kev



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.

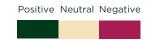
+	Your Wellbeing Policies and Support Index	Response sc	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
	score				+2	0	0	0
port	I am satisfied with the policies/practices in place to help me manage my health and wellbeing	74	18 7	74%	+7 <b>0</b>	+1	+1	+1
and Support	My agency does a good job of communicating what it can offer me in terms of health and wellbeing	69	21 10	69%	+6♠	-2	-1	-2
Policies	My agency does a good job of promoting health and wellbeing	70	22 8	<b>70</b> %	+5 <b>•</b>	-1	0	0
Wellbeing F	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	70	21 10	<b>70</b> %	+4	+1	+1	0
Well	I believe my immediate supervisor cares about my health and wellbeing	88	8	88%	+1	+1	-1	-1
	Other similar questions							
б	If I felt it was needed, I would feel comfortable discussing my mental health and wellbeing with my supervisor	77	13 11	<b>77</b> %	+2	+1	0	0
Wellbeing	I receive the respect I deserve from my colleagues at work	83	14	83%	+1	+1	0	0
<b>-</b> \$	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	86	10	86%	+3	+2	+1	+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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		14%	+3	+2	+1	+1
Very good		<b>35</b> %	0	0	-1	-1
Good		<b>37</b> %	-1	-1	+1	+1
Fair		11%	-3	-2	-1	-1
Poor		<b>3</b> %	0	0	0	0
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		14%	-5 <b>♥</b>	-2	-2	-2
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		38%	-2	-1	0	0
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		<b>38</b> %	+6 <b></b>	+1	+3	+2
Slightly below capacity – available for more work		8%	+2	+2	0	+1
Well below capacity - not enough work		1%	0	0	-1	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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		<b>3</b> %	-1	-1	0	0
Often		20%	-2	-3	-3	-2
Sometimes		50%	0	-1	-2	-2
Rarely		24%	+2	+4	+3	+3
Never		<b>3</b> %	+1	+1	+1	+1
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		5%	0	-2	0	0
To a large extent		15%	-1	-4	-2	-2
Somewhat		<b>37</b> %	0	-2	-2	-1
To a small extent		29%	0	+4	+1	+2
To a very small extent		14%	+2	+4	+2	+2
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		<b>7</b> %	0	-1	0	0
Agree		19%	-3	-3	-2	-2
Neither agree nor disagree		32%	0	0	+1	+1
Disagree		33%	+2	+2	-1	0
Strongly disagree		9%	+2	+2	+1	+1

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At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

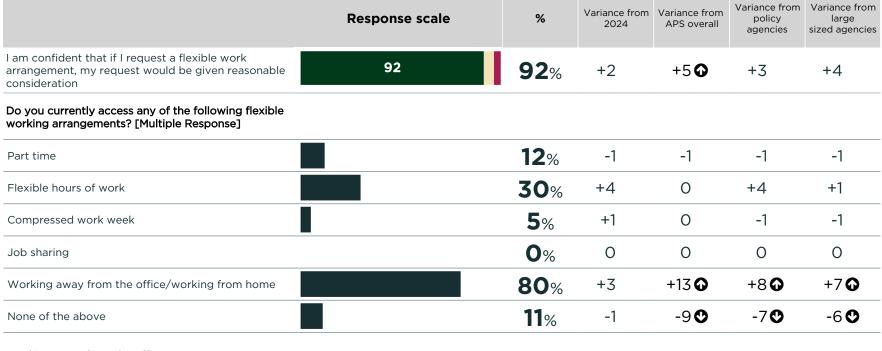
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Key

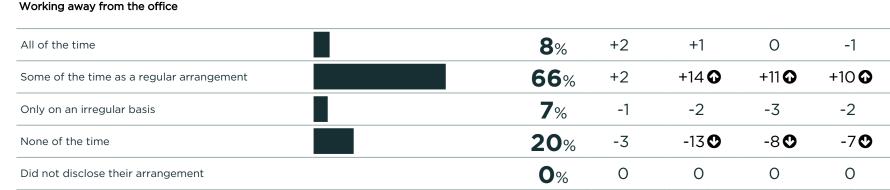
At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

#### Flexible work





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

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

### **Working in the APS**

	Response se	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	71	18 11	<b>71</b> %	+5♠	+2	+1	+1
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	78	17	<b>78</b> %	+1	+1	-1	-1
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	83	11	83%	+4	+2	0	+1
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	88	10	88%	+2	0	-1	-1
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	70	23	<b>70</b> %	+3	+1	+2	+2
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	86	10	86%	0	+2	0	0
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	84	11	84%	-	0	-1	-1
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	88	8	88%	-	0	-1	-1
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	81	13	81%	0	+1	+1	0
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)	65	21 13	<b>65</b> %	-	-1	-5♥	-5♥

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 scal	e	% 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	73	16 12	<b>73</b> %	+1	+4	0	+1
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	79	13 8	<b>79</b> %	+2	+13 🚱	+3	+6 <b></b>
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	88	8	88%	+3	+4	+2	+2
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	84	10	84%	+1	-2	-2	-1

### **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	91	91%	+1	-2	-1	-1
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	84 13	84%	+6	-1	+1	0
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	73 20 7	<b>73</b> %	+3	+5 🐼	-1	0
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	76 14 10	<b>76</b> %	+1	+4	+1	+1

Key **G** 

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative

Australian Government

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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		25%	-2	0	0	0
Very good		<b>57</b> %	+1	0	-1	0
Average		16%	+1	0	+1	+1
Below average		2%	0	0	0	0
Well below average		1%	0	0	0	0

	Response s	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%	+1	+3	+2	+1
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	66	18 17	66%	+2	+6 <b>۞</b>	+6 <b></b>	+7 <b>0</b>
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	74	17 9	<b>74</b> %	-1	0	0	0
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	80	12 9	80%	-2	0	-1	-1
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	54	33 12	<b>54</b> %	0	-5♥	-3	-3

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

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Australian Government
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#### Retention



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

Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts about working in your curreposition?	ent				
I want to leave my position as soon as possible	<b>7</b> %	-1	-1	-2	-1
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	23%	0	+1	-3	-1
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	42%	-2	+3	-1	-1
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	28%	+3	-3	+6 🚱	+2
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	<b>3</b> %	-1	-2	0	-1
I am pursuing another position within my agency	40%	+1	-5 <b>O</b>	-2	-2
I am pursuing a position in another agency	<b>30</b> %	-1	+5 <b>0</b>	+1	+3
I am pursuing work outside the APS	<b>7</b> %	+1	-2	-1	-2
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	<b>3</b> %	-1	+1	+1	+1
Other	16%	+1	+3	+1	+1

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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your current position? (5 highes responses):	t				
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity	22%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area	13%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change	11%	-	-	-	-
I have achieved all I can in my current position	8%	-	-	-	-
My immediate supervisor's leadership is of a poor quality	8%	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

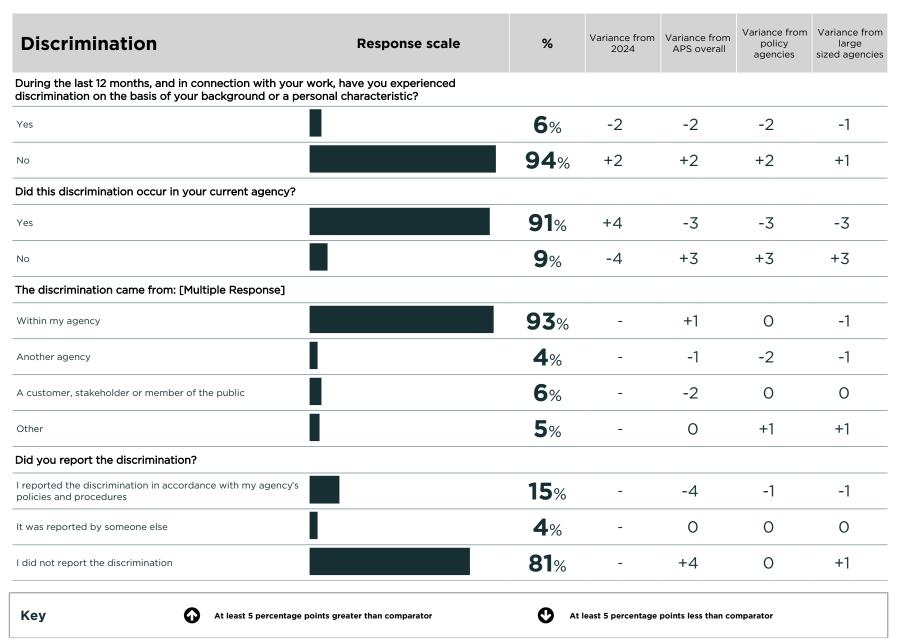


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### Unacceptable behaviour



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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to bullyin workplace?	ng or harassment in your current					
Yes		<b>7</b> %	-1	-2	-2	-1
No		88%	+1	+2	+1	+1
Not sure		5%	0	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)		<b>50</b> %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		40%	-	-	-	-
Inappropriate and unfair application of work policies or rules (e.g. performance management, access to leave, access to learning and development)		<b>33</b> %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		<b>31</b> %	-4	-6 <b>O</b>	-3	-4
It was reported by someone else		10%	+3	+3	+4	+3
I did not report the behaviour		<b>59</b> %	0	+4	-1	0



#### 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 policy agencies	Variance from large sized agencies
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reported you observed a public official engaging in conduct in yo to be corruption?						
Yes		1%	-1	-1	-1	-1
No		95%	+1	+2	+1	+1
Not sure		<b>3</b> %	0	-1	0	0
Prefer not to answer		1%	0	0	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witness	ed? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		63%	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		<b>38</b> %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		18%	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		18%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		<b>25</b> %	+10 🐼	0	+2	+2
It was reported by someone else		13%	+60	-5♥	-2	-3
I did not report the behaviour		63%	-15 👁	+5 <b>☆</b>	0	+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	43%
Woman or female	52%
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	43%
No	57%

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	30%
No	70%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	68%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	2%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	1%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	2%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	14%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	3%
Southern and Eastern European	7%
South-East Asian	14%
North-East Asian	4%
Southern and Central Asian	6%
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	70%
Maybe	13%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	5%

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#### **Agency position**

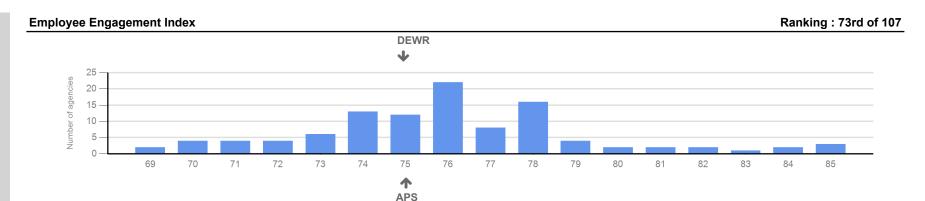


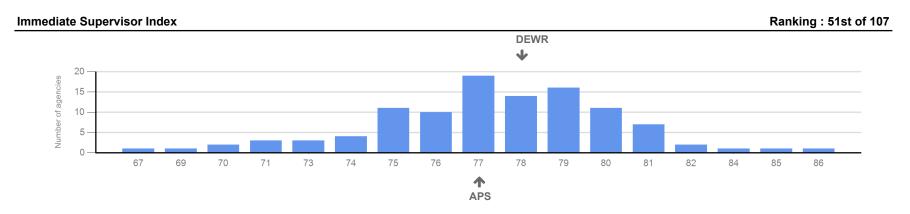
## Agency position

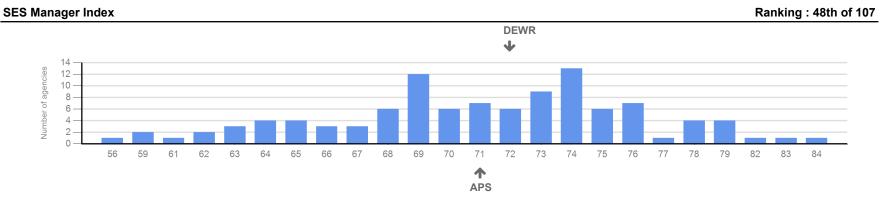
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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



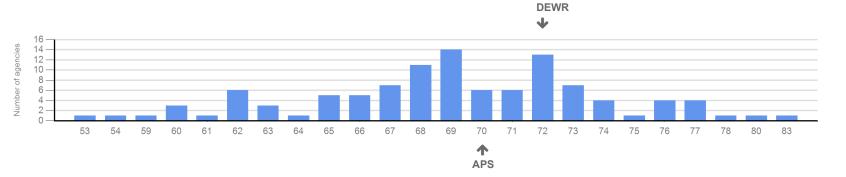
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These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your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

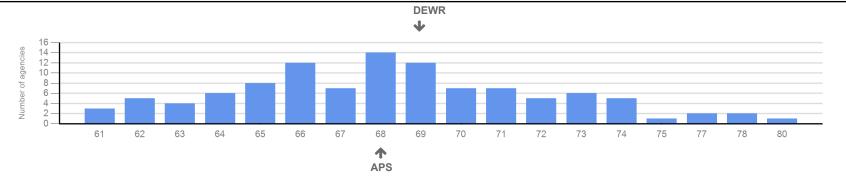
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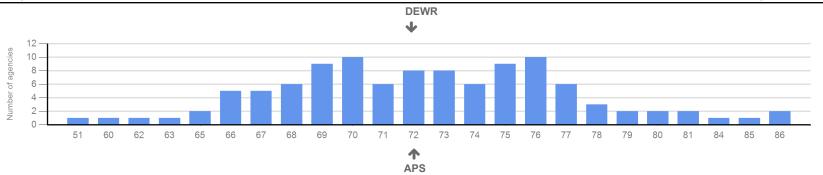




#### Enabling Innovation Index Ranking: 44th of 107



#### **Wellbeing Policies and Support Index**





Ranking: 59th 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.

	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	<b>61</b> %	+100	+2	+3	+3
.2	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	<b>71</b> %	+5 <b>⊙</b>	+2	+1	+1
.3	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	83%	+4	+2	0	+1
.4	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	<b>73</b> %	+1	+4	0	+1
.5	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	<b>70</b> %	+4	+1	+1	0
.6	Change is managed well in my agency	<b>55</b> %	+7 <b>o</b>	+70	+70	+90



## **DEWR** specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
My immediate supervisor clearly articulates the direction and priorities for our area	81 13	81%	+2
Work is allocated at the lowest appropriate level in my workgroup	50 34 16	<b>50</b> %	+80
Decisions are made at the lowest appropriate level in my workgroup	41 34 24	41%	+5 <b>•</b>
My workgroup invites diverse perspectives and creates an inclusive environment	79 16	<b>79</b> %	-
I am encouraged to experiment with doing things differently in how I work and solve problems	68 23 9	68%	-
I am expected to connect and collaborate with other areas in delivering my work	85 12	85%	0
I routinely discuss my workload with my supervisor	77 16 7	<b>77</b> %	+3
I discuss expectations about contact outside of work with my supervisor	45 37 18	45%	-4
I understand how my work contributes to achieving the department's strategic priorities	87 <mark>10</mark>	87%	-
My workgroup has the skills and capability to work with colleagues across different locations, including remote work	90 8	90%	0

Australian Government

Positive Neutral Negative

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

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At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

## **DEWR** specific questions

	Response scale			Variance from 2024
In the last 12 months, I have taken active steps to develop new skills and capabilities (not including mandatory training requirements)	76	16 8	<b>76</b> %	-
I am supported to positively and intentionally identify and engage with risk	65	26 9	<b>65</b> %	-
In the last 12 months, my workgroup has discussed how we can transform the way we work	71	20 9	<b>71</b> %	-
My SES/State Manager supports my workgroup to deal with ambiguity and change	65	26 9	<b>65</b> %	-
I am able to respond to issues and/or solve problems by drawing on the right people and the right expertise regardless of where they come from in the organisation	77	17	<b>77</b> %	-

Key



0

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

<b></b>	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
	other opportunities coming out nat 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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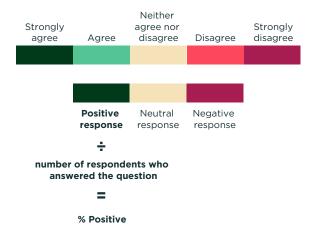
Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

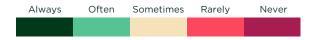
#### **Guide to this report**

#### % 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.

