

# **2025 APS Employee Census**

5 May - 6 June

# Highlights Report

Responses:

283 of 305

Response rate:

93%



### **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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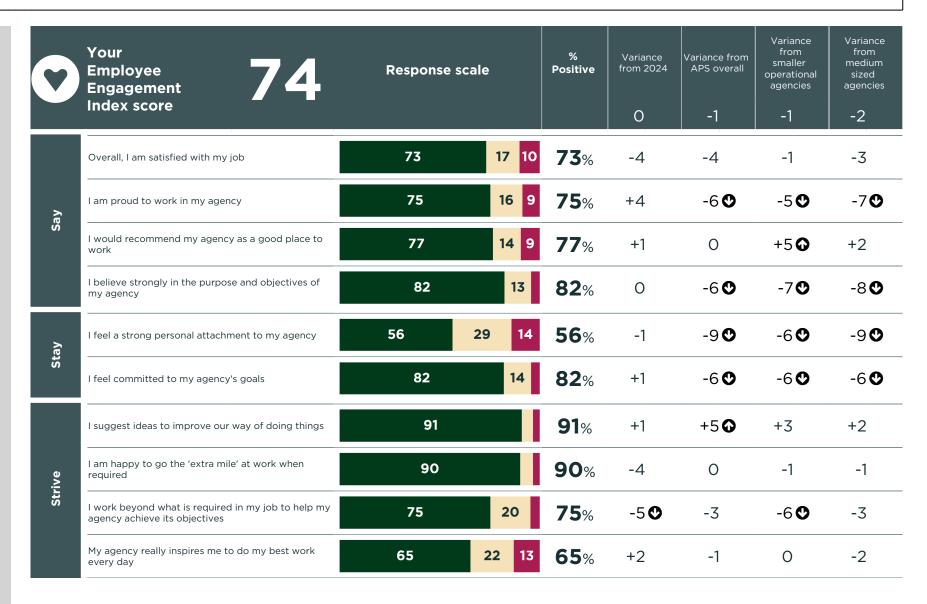


### **Employee Engagement: Say, Stay, Strive**



# **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

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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.





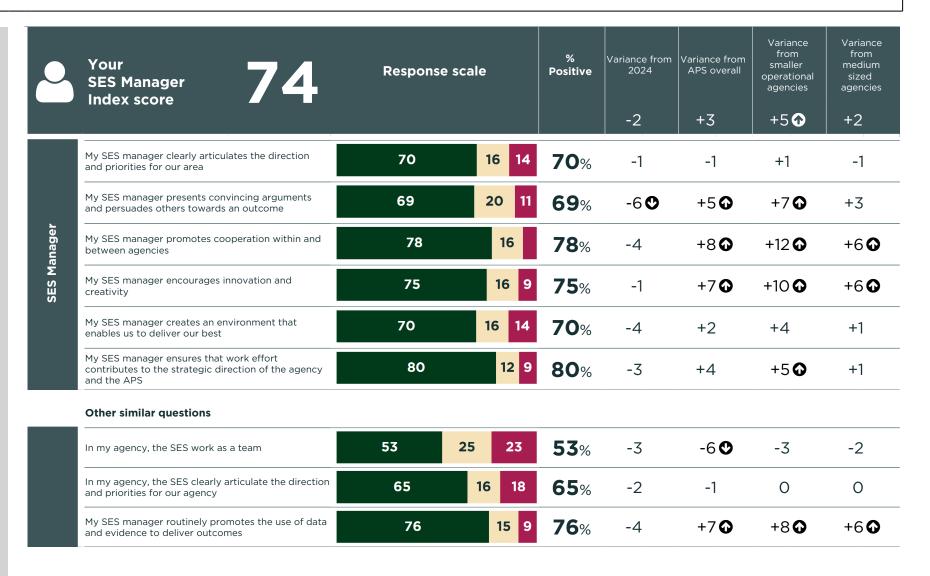
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### **Leadership - SES Manager**



#### **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.

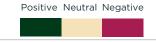


Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





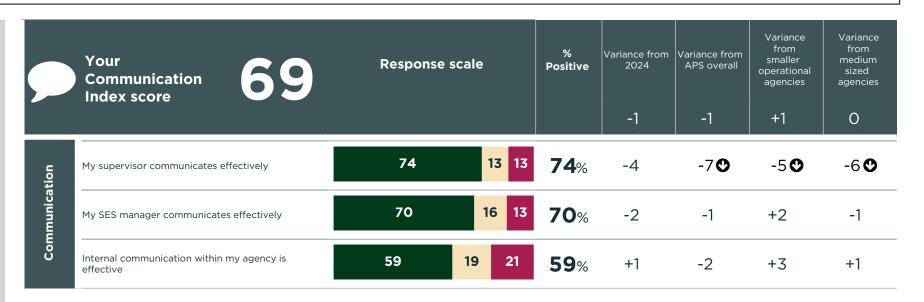
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# **Communication and change**



#### 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	64	22	15	64%	-5♥	-4	-1	-3
Change	Staff are consulted about change at work	52	33	15	<b>52</b> %	-4	0	+4	+2
	Change is managed well in my agency	44	30 2	6	44%	+1	-4	0	+1

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

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

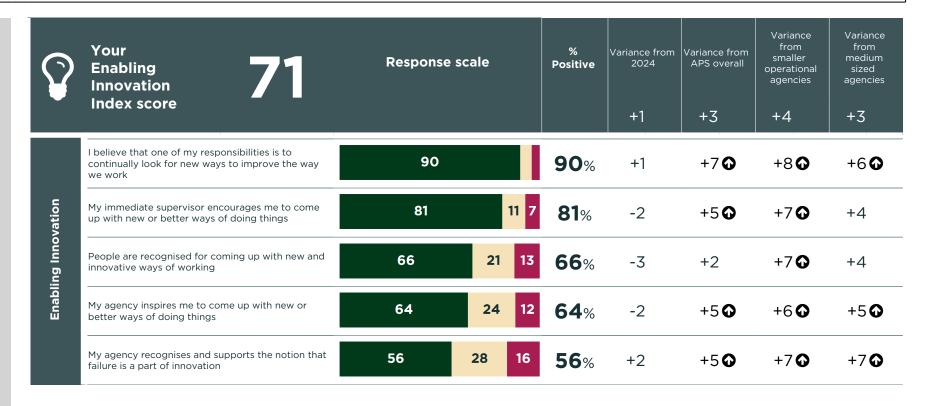
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### **Enabling Innovation**



#### **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



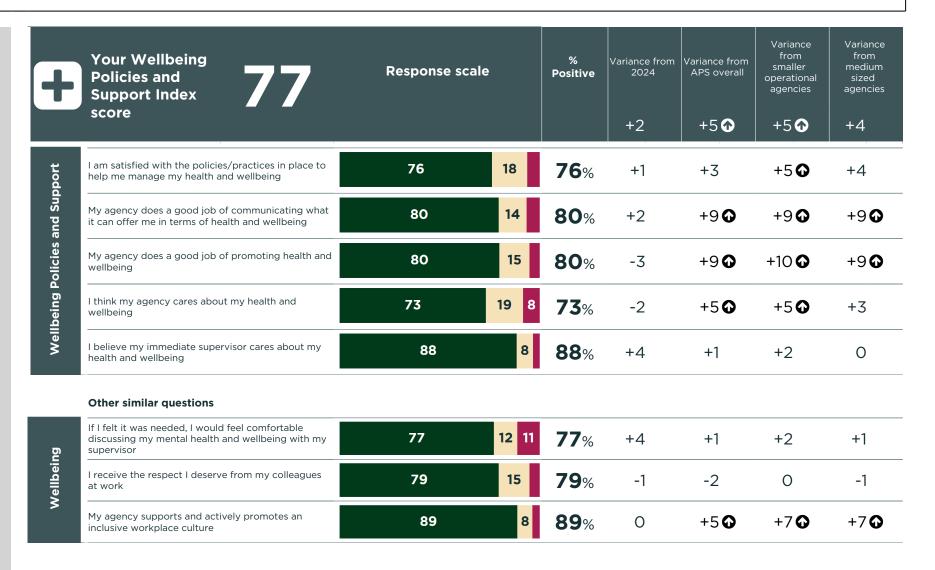
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#### **Wellbeing Policies and Support**



#### 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





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# Wellbeing

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		15%	+1	+3	+3	+3
Very good		<b>35</b> %	-2	0	-1	-2
Good		<b>32</b> %	0	-5♥	-4	-4
Fair		14%	+2	+1	+1	+2
Poor		4%	-1	+1	+1	+1
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		20%	-5♥	+3	-1	0
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		40%	-1	+1	+2	+1
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		33%	+70	-4	0	0
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		<b>5</b> %	-2	-1	-2	-2
Well below capacity - not enough work		<b>3</b> %	+1	+1	+1	+1

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 smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		<b>5</b> %	+1	0	0	+1
Often		18%	<b>-7♥</b>	-5♥	-5♥	-4
Sometimes		<b>52</b> %	+1	+2	+3	+2
Rarely		22%	+5♠	+3	+2	+1
Never		<b>3</b> %	+1	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		6%	-3	-1	-2	0
To a large extent		16%	+1	-4	-3	-2
Somewhat		42%	+1	+3	+3	+3
To a small extent		23%	-1	-1	-2	-3
To a very small extent		13%	+1	+3	+3	+2
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		11%	+2	+4	+3	+4
Agree		16%	-4	-5♥	-6 <b>O</b>	-5♥
Neither agree nor disagree		<b>32</b> %	0	-1	+2	+1
Disagree		<b>31</b> %	-1	0	0	-2
Strongly disagree		10%	+3	+2	+1	+1

Key





At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

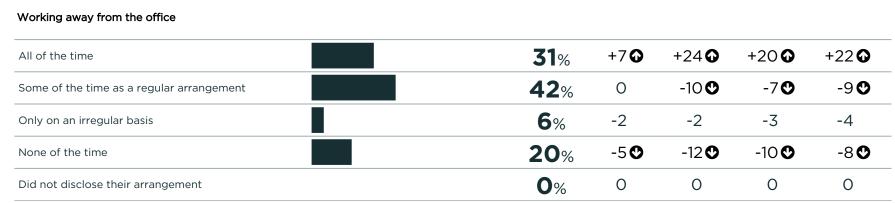


#### Flexible work



	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am confident that if I request a flexible work arrangement, my request would be given reasonable consideration	93	93%	+3	+60	+7 <b>©</b>	+5 <b>☆</b>
Do you currently access any of the following flexible working arrangements? [Multiple Response]						
Part time		6%	-3	-7 <b>♥</b>	-5♥	-6♥
Flexible hours of work		<b>27</b> %	+4	-3	-2	-5♥
Compressed work week		8%	0	+3	+3	+3
Job sharing		0%	0	0	0	0
Working away from the office/working from home		80%	+5 <b>♦</b>	+12 🐼	+10 🐼	+8♠
None of the above		14%	-2	-6♥	-5♥	-4

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 sc	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	71	15 14	<b>71</b> %	+3	+1	+5♠	+2
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	76	15 9	<b>76</b> %	-2	-1	0	-2
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	77	14 9	<b>77</b> %	-4	-5♥	-3	-4
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	91	8	91%	0	+3	+3	+3
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	73	19 8	<b>73</b> %	+4	+4	+6 🔷	+80
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	87	9	<b>87</b> %	-1	+2	+2	+1
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	82	12	82%	-	-1	0	-2
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	88		88%	-	-1	-1	-2
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	81	11 9	81%	-4	+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)	73	18 10	<b>73</b> %	-	+6 <b>♦</b>	+4	+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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### Job satisfaction

	Response sca	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	66	23 11	66%	-4	-3	-1	-4
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	73	14 13	<b>73</b> %	-1	+7 <b>6</b>	+80	+5♠
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	89	9	89%	+2	+4	+6 🚱	+4
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	89	8	89%	0	+3	+11 🕥	+7 <b>0</b>

# **Clarity and autonomy**

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I understand how my role contributes to achieving an outcome for the Australian public	90	90%	-2	-3	-3	-3
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	79 15	<b>79</b> %	+3	-5 <b>O</b>	-3	-3
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	76 18	<b>76</b> %	-1	+86	+70	+3
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	78 13 9	<b>78</b> %	-2	+6 🚱	+7 <b> </b>	+4

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 smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In the last month, please rate your workgroup's overall performance						
Excellent		25%	-60	0	-5♥	-2
Very good		<b>52</b> %	-1	-5 <b>O</b>	-1	-4
Average		19%	+6 <b>♦</b>	+3	+5♠	+4
Below average		2%	0	0	0	0
Well below average	1	<b>2</b> %	+1	+1	+1	+1
	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies

	Response	scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	72	16 12	<b>72</b> %	-9 <b>0</b>	-6 <b>O</b>	-7 <b>0</b>	-7 <b>©</b>
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	57	21 22	<b>57</b> %	-1	-3	0	+3
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	69	18 13	69%	-7♥	-6♥	-4	-7 <b>♥</b>
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	80	11 9	80%	-1	+1	+2	0
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	61	28 11	61%	-1	+2	+6 <b>₽</b>	+3

Key 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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### **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 smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
Which of the following statements best reflects your thoughts about working in your curre position?	nt				
I want to leave my position as soon as possible	12%	+1	+3	+3	+4
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	29%	0	+70	+70	+80
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	40%	-3	+1	+1	-1
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	20%	+2	-12 👁	-10 👁	-10 👁
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	4%	+3	-1	+1	0
I am pursuing another position within my agency	22%	-5♥	-24 <b>O</b>	-2	-5♥
I am pursuing a position in another agency	50%	+1	+24 <b>0</b>	+13 🚳	+12 🐼
I am pursuing work outside the APS	8%	+4	-1	-4	-3
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	2%	-2	0	-80	-4
Other	15%	-1	+1	0	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 scal	e %	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your current position? (5 his responses):	ighest				
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity	<b>22</b> %	-	-	-	-
Senior leadership is of a poor quality	11%	-	-	-	-
There are a lack of future career opportunities in my agency	9%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change	9%	-	-	-	-
My immediate supervisor's leadership is of a poor quality	8%	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



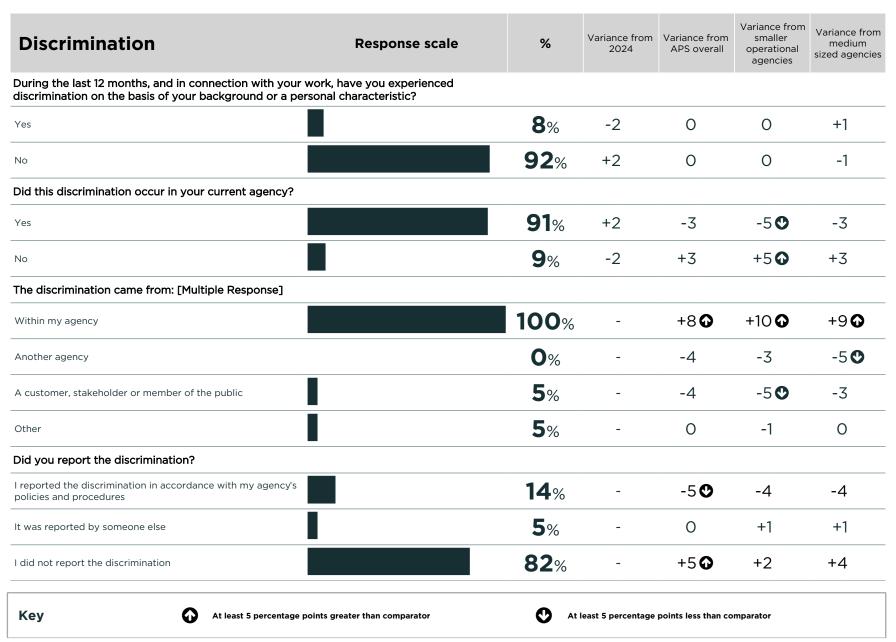
At least 5 percentage points less than comparator



### 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 smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to bu workplace?	llying or harassment in your current					
Yes		<b>12</b> %	+1	+2	+1	+2
No		82%	+1	-3	-2	-4
Not sure		6%	-2	+1	+1	+2
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest re	esponses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		66%	-	-	-	-
Deliberate exclusion from work-related activities		41%	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		<b>34</b> %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		<b>25</b> %	-14 <b>ூ</b>	<b>-</b> 12 <b>♥</b>	-9 <b>0</b>	-10 ♥
It was reported by someone else		9%	-5♥	+2	+1	+1
I did not report the behaviour		66%	+19 🔷	+10 🐼	+80	<b>+9</b>



### 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 smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencie
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reported to you observed a public official engaging in conduct in you to be corruption?						
Yes		5%	+2	+3	+2	+2
No		89%	-1	-4	-3	-4
Not sure		<b>5</b> %	-1	+1	+1	+1
Prefer not to answer		2%	0	0	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witnesse	d? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		62%	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		<b>62</b> %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		<b>31</b> %	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		23%	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		23%	+230	-2	+6 🐼	+2
It was reported by someone else		23%	+230	+6 🐼	+1	+5 <b>0</b>
I did not report the behaviour		<b>54</b> %	+54 <b>0</b>	-3	-7 <b>0</b>	-7 <b>•</b>



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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

# **Demographics**

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	41%
Woman or female	56%
Non-binary	0%
I use a different term	0%
Prefer not to say	3%

Do you identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person?	Responses
Yes	1%
No	99%

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

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	38%
No	62%

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	30%
No	70%

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	2%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	2%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	2%
Anglo-European Anglo-European	22%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	6%
Southern and Eastern European	8%
South-East Asian	13%
North-East Asian	5%
Southern and Central Asian	5%
North American	2%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	1%
North African and Middle Eastern	3%
Sub-Saharan African	1%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	17%
No	67%
Maybe	14%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	2%

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### **Agency position**

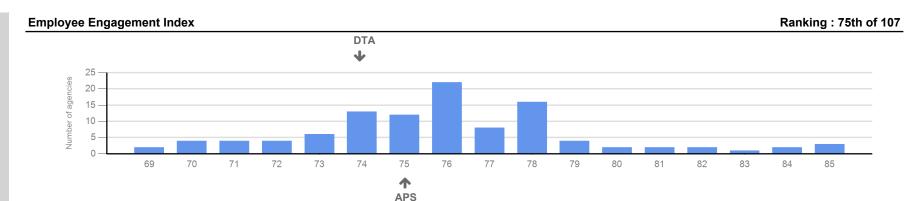


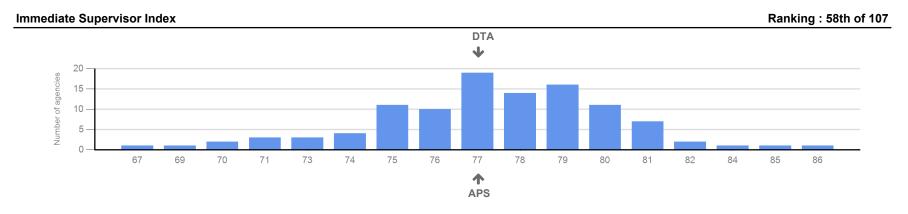
# Agency position

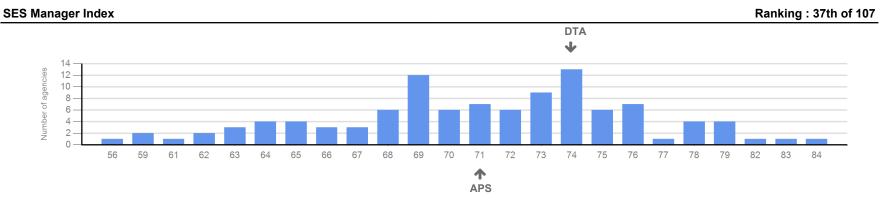
These graphs display the overall index score of each agency for the Employee Engagement, Immediate Supervisor, SES Manager, Communication, **Enabling Innovation** and Wellbeing Policies and Support indices. These are to assist you to see where your agency sits in comparison to the overall APS index score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



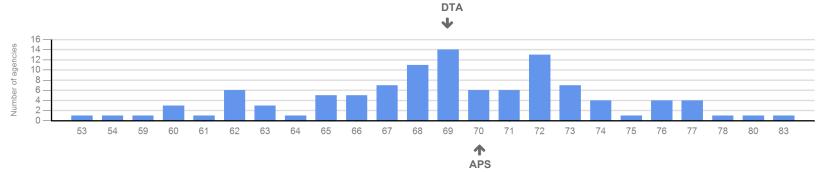
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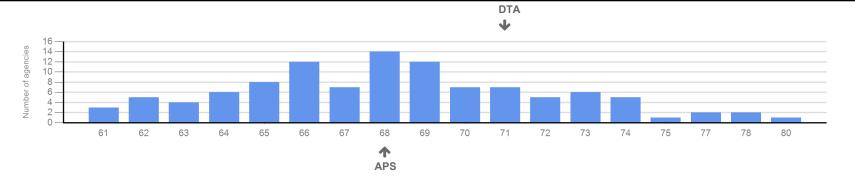
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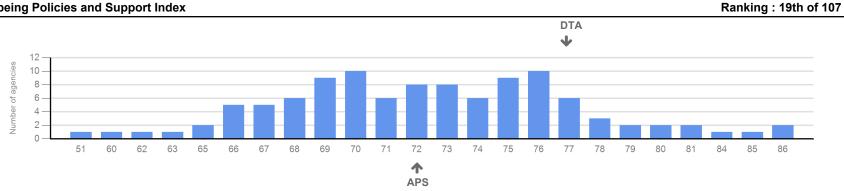




#### Ranking: 25th of 107 **Enabling Innovation Index**



#### **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 At least 5 percentage points less than comparator	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from smaller operational agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
.1	My agency inspires me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	64%	-2	+5 <b>0</b>	+60	+50
.2	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	<b>71</b> %	+3	+1	+5 <b>0</b>	+2
.3	Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	<b>78</b> %	-2	+60	+7 <b>0</b>	+4
.4	People are recognised for coming up with new and innovative ways of working	66%	-3	+2	+7 <b>0</b>	+4
.5	My agency supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture	89%	0	+5 <b>0</b>	+7 <b>o</b>	+70
.6	I think my agency cares about my health and wellbeing	<b>73</b> %	-2	+5 <b>0</b>	+5 <b>0</b>	+3

Australian Government
Australian Public Service Commission

# **DTA** specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
The Executive Board works well together to deliver outcomes	51 30 18	<b>51</b> %	0
My SES manager models the DTA's values and behaviours	86 12	86%	-1
My immediate manager models the DTA's values and behaviours	89 9	89%	0
APS and EL staff in my immediate workgroup model the DTA's values and behaviours	86 14	86%	-1
I understand how my role contributes to the DTA's purpose	90 8	90%	-1
My immediate workgroup actively engages and considers the views of other DTA branches and divisions	84 13	84%	+5♠
Internal communication channels keep me well informed of initiatives the DTA has underway	68 24	68%	+4
I have regular two-way performance conversations with my manager	73 17 10	<b>73</b> %	+3
The feedback I receive on my performance helps me to improve and perform my job more effectively	65 25 10	65%	-8♥
My manager acknowledges when the team (or someone in the team) does a good job	80 15	80%	-1

Positive Neutral Negative

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

PAGE 24.

Key

# **DTA** specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
My immediate workgroup manages underperformance effectively	46 36	<b>17 46</b> %	-2
I feel confident and supported to raise concerns about inappropriate behaviour	73 16	10 73%	-6♥
The culture of the DTA encourages people to act with integrity	79	<b>79</b> %	-3
My immediate workgroup is conscious of including colleagues not based in Canberra when planning business activities, meetings, and social events	89	8 89%	+3
I feel that I am able to bring my whole self to work	<b>72</b> 18	10 72%	-4

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

<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		
Are there any other opportunities coming out of the results that we want to explore further?			

How could we investigate? Through looking at the data in

more detail or through discussions with staff?

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#### Use this page to start your local action plans

Identify areas to celebrate, opportunities for improvement and areas which you need to investigate further.

Prioritise 3 areas to take forward

	Prioritise 3 areas for action	Timescales	Owner	Resources required	Target/Success measure
1					
2					
3					

2025 APS Employee Census

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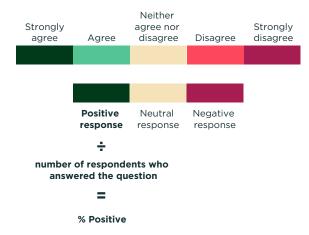
Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

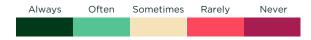
### **Guide to this report**

#### % Positive

Where results are shown as positive percentages (% positive), these are calculated by adding together positive responses ("strongly agree" + "agree" or "always" + "often") and dividing by the number of respondents who answered the question.



For 5 point scale questions not asked on the *agree to disagree* scale the same rules apply, the green percent represents a **positive response** (unless the question is negatively worded).









#### Rounding

Results are presented as whole numbers for ease of reading, with rounding performed at the last stage of calculation for maximum accuracy. Values from x.00 to x.49 are rounded down and values from x.50 to x.99 are rounded up. Therefore in some instances, results may not total 100%.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total
Number of responses	151	166	176	96	24	613
Percentage	24.63%	27.08%	28.71%	15.66%	3.92%	100%
Rounded percentage	25%	27%	29%	16%	4%	101%
Number of positive	151 + 166 = 317					
% Positive	317 ÷ 613 = 52%					

#### Anonymity

It is best practice not to display the results of groups of respondents to the extent where the anonymity of individuals may be compromised. Results will not be shown where there are less than 10 respondents in a group.

#### Comparisons

Comparisons to other similarly sized agencies are used through this report.

#### Comparisons to previous years

The method of analysing and reporting specific results may be periodically reviewed and revised. Such improvements are applied to current data and that of previous years. For this reason the current report is always the most accurate data source for APS Employee Census results, including comparisons with time series data.

