

2025 APS Employee Census

5 May - 6 June

Highlights Report

Responses:

598 of 727

Response rate:

82%



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.

2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 02.

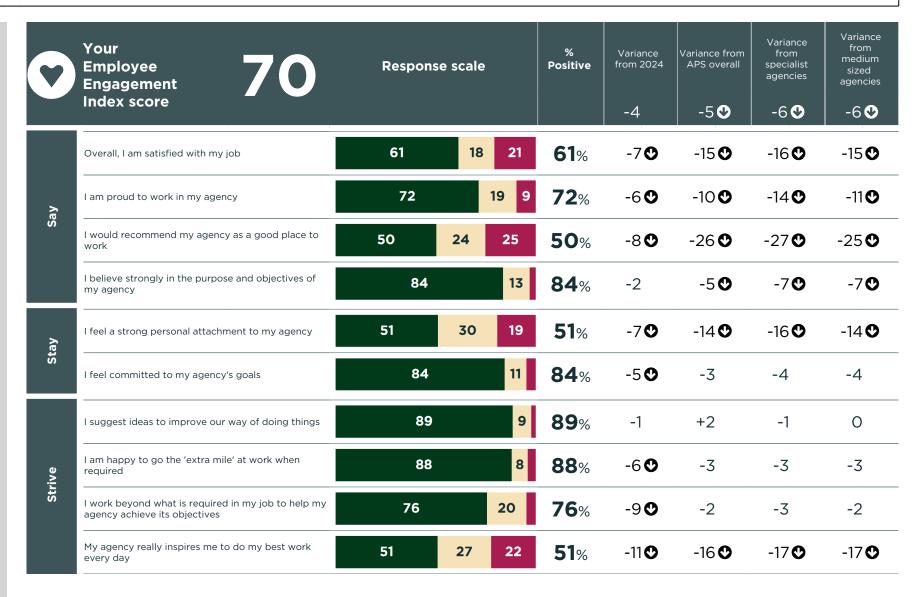


Employee Engagement: Say, Stay, Strive



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

2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 03.



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 scal	9	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
	Index score				-1	-2	-2	-2
	My supervisor engages with staff on how to respond to future challenges	76	14 9	76 %	+1	-4	-4	-3
isor	My supervisor can deliver difficult advice whilst maintaining relationships	76	16 8	76%	-1	-3	-3	-3
Supervisor	My supervisor invites a range of views, including those different to their own	80	12 8	80%	-2	-2	-3	-3
Immediate	My supervisor encourages my team to regularly review and improve our work	77	15 8	77 %	+3	-6♥	-5♥	-5♥
m m	My supervisor is invested in my development	76	15 9	76 %	-2	-2	-2	-2
	My supervisor ensures that my workgroup delivers on what we are responsible for	81	13	81%	-1	-7 ♥	-7 ©	-7 ♥
	Other similar questions							
	My supervisor provides me with helpful feedback to improve my performance	72	16 11	72 %	+3	-7 ⊙	-5♥	-5 ♥
	My immediate supervisor encourages me	75	17 9	75 %	-1	-3	-4	-3
	My supervisor actively ensures that everyone can be included in workplace activities	77	13 10	77 %	-3	-7 ©	-7 ©	-6 •
	My supervisor encourages me to take on new tasks and gain experience doing things I've never done before	79	11 9	79 %	-2	-2	-2	-2
Key	At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator	At least 5 percentage	points less tha	n comparator		Positive N	leutral Negative	9

Australian Government

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2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 04.

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.

2	Your SES Manager Index score	Response so	cale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
	My SES manager clearly articulates the direction and priorities for our area	65	19 16	65 %	-4	-6♥	-6♥	-7 ♥
	My SES manager presents convincing arguments and persuades others towards an outcome	64	26 11	64%	-6♥	0	-3	-2
Manager	My SES manager promotes cooperation within and between agencies	73	19 8	73 %	-4	+3	+1	+2
SES M	My SES manager encourages innovation and creativity	66	24 11	66%	-5♥	-2	-3	-3
	My SES manager creates an environment that enables us to deliver our best	64	23 13	64%	-3	-4	-5♥	-5♥
	My SES manager ensures that work effort contributes to the strategic direction of the agency and the APS	76	17 7	76 %	-5♥	0	-2	-2
	Other similar questions							
	In my agency, the SES work as a team	37 24	39	37 %	-7 0	-21 🗷	-19 🗸	-18 👁
	In my agency, the SES clearly articulate the direction and priorities for our agency	42 23	35	42%	-12 🗸	-25 O	-22 O	-23 ©
	My SES manager routinely promotes the use of data and evidence to deliver outcomes	64	27 8	64%	-6♥	-5♥	-7 ♥	-6♥

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



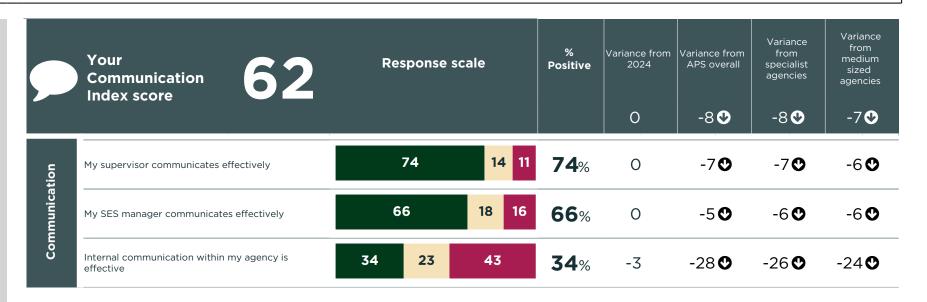
2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 05.

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	56		20	24	56%	+3	-11 ⊙	- 12 ♥	-10 ♥
Staff are consulted about change at work	44		37	19	44%	+3	-8♥	-7 ©	-6♥
Change is managed well in my agency	32	28		40	32 %	0	-16 ♥	-12 ♥	-12 ♥

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

Australian Government
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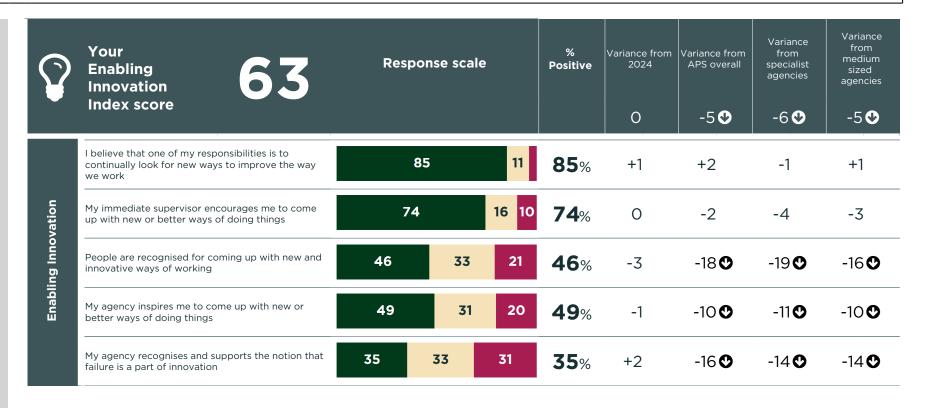
2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 06.

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



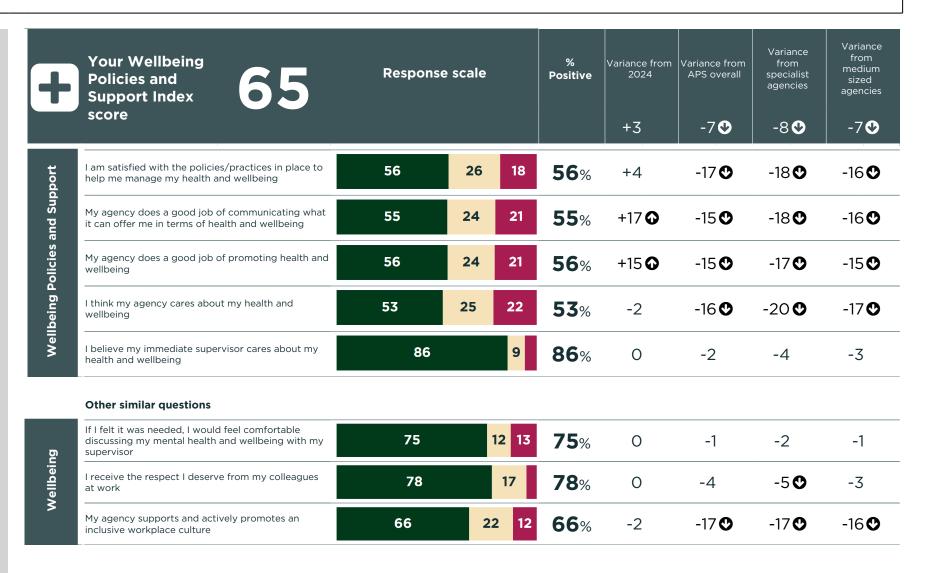
PAGE 07. 2025 APS Employee Census

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.

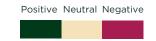


Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 08.

Wellbeing

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In general, would you say that your health is:						
Excellent		12%	0	0	-1	0
Very good		34 %	+2	-1	-3	-3
Good		36 %	-2	-1	+1	0
Fair		13%	-2	0	+2	+1
Poor		4%	+3	+1	+2	+2
What best describes your current workload?						
Well above capacity - too much work		29%	-6♥	+12 🐼	+11 🐼	+10 🐼
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do		34 %	-1	-5♥	-6♥	-5♥
At capacity – about the right amount of work to do		23%	+4	- 13 ♥	-10 👁	-10 ❷
Slightly below capacity - available for more work		10%	+1	+4	+3	+3
Well below capacity - not enough work		4 %	+1	+2	+2	+2

Key





At least 5 percentage points less than comparator





Wellbeing

	Response scale	%	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
How often do you find your work stressful?						
Always		7 %	-1	+2	+3	+2
Often		29%	-5♥	+6 ♦	+7 •	+7 •
Sometimes		43%	+5♠	-7♥	-8♥	-7 ♥
Rarely		19%	+2	-1	-3	-2
Never		3 %	-1	0	0	0
To what extent is your work emotionally demanding?						
To a very large extent		8%	-3	+1	+2	+2
To a large extent		20%	-1	+1	+3	+2
Somewhat		39 %	+1	0	+1	0
To a small extent		23%	+2	-1	-4	-3
To a very small extent		9%	+1	0	-2	-2
I feel burned out by my work						
Strongly agree		10%	0	+3	+4	+3
Agree		24%	-4	+3	+4	+3
Neither agree nor disagree		30%	+2	-3	-1	-1
Disagree		28%	+1	-3	-6 O	-5 O
Strongly disagree		8%	0	0	-1	-1

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At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

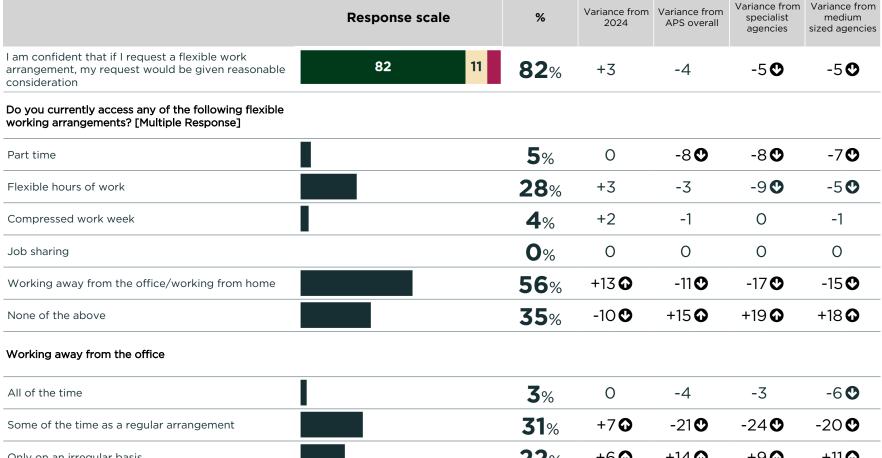
2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 10.

Key

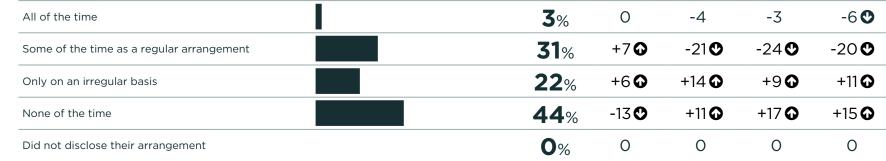
At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

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.



Kev At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



PAGE 11. 2025 APS Employee Census

Working in the APS

	Response sc	ale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	64	20 16	64%	-1	-6 •	-6 •	-5♥
The people in my workgroup demonstrate stewardship	73	21	73 %	-7 ⊙	-4	-7 ⊙	-6♥
The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	65	17 18	65 %	-8♥	-16♥	-17 ூ	-16♥
I believe strongly in the purpose and objectives of the APS	88	10	88%	-2	-1	0	0
I feel a strong personal attachment to the APS	66	24 10	66%	-3	-3	+2	+1
My workgroup considers the people and businesses affected by what we do	79	15	79 %	-4	-5♥	-8♥	-7 ♥
The people in my workgroup value others' individual skills and talents	81	11 8	81%	-	-3	-6♥	-4
People in my workgroup are comfortable checking with each other if they have questions about the right way to do something	84	9	84%	-	-5♥	-6♥	-5♥
The people in my workgroup are able to bring up problems and tough issues	77	13 9	77 %	-1	-2	-5♥	-3
If you make a mistake in my workgroup, it tends to be held against you (reverse scored: positive scores represent those who disagreed, or strongly disagreed with this statement)	69	20 11	69%	-	+2	-4	-2

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 12.

Job satisfaction

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	61 21	18 61%	-2	-8♥	-11 👁	-9♥
I am fairly remunerated (e.g. salary, superannuation) for the work that I do	65 17	18 65%	+1	-1	-1	-2
I am satisfied with my non-monetary employment conditions (e.g. leave, flexible work arrangements, other benefits)	76 12	76 %	+1	-8♥	-10 🗸	-9♥
I am satisfied with the stability and security of my job	84	11 84%	-5♥	-2	+1	+2

Clarity and autonomy

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
I understand how my role contributes to achieving an outcome for the Australian public	88	88%	-2	-4	-4	-4
I am clear what my duties and responsibilities are	59 28 13	59 %	+2	-25 O	-24 ©	-24 O
I have a choice in deciding how I do my work	68 25 7	68%	-1	0	-8 👁	-6 O
Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	68 14 18	68%	-2	-4	-6 O	-5♥

Key

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At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

Positive Neutral Negative



2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 13.

Performance

	Response scale %	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
In the last month, please rate your workgroup's overall performance					
Excellent	20%	-5 O	-5♥	-6 •	-7 O
Very good	54%	+1	-3	-3	-2
Average	22%	+4	+6 ₽	+7 	+80
Below average	3 %	0	+1	+1	+1
Well below average	2%	0	+1	+1	+1

	Response scale		% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
My workgroup has the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well	67	17 15	67 %	-6♥	-11 👁	-13 👁	-12 O
My workgroup has the tools and resources we need to perform well	40 24	36	40%	-6♥	-20 ♥	-17 ♥	-15♥
The people in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	69	19 12	69%	-4	-6♥	-8♥	-6♥
My job gives me opportunities to utilise my skills	70	12 18	70 %	-7♥	-9 0	-11 ♥	-9 ♥
During the last 12 months, the formal learning I have accessed has improved my performance	63	25 11	63 %	0	+4	+7♠	+5♠

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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2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 14.

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 specialist 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	14%	+4	+6 🚱	+7 0	+6 🚱
I want to leave my position within the next 12 months	24%	-2	+3	+5♠	+3
I want to stay working in my position for the next one to two years	41%	+1	+2	-1	0
I want to stay working in my position for at least the next three years	20%	-3	-11 👁	-11 👁	-10 👁
What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current position?					
I am planning to retire	3 %	-1	-2	-1	-1
I am pursuing another position within my agency	28%	-2	-18 •	0	+1
I am pursuing a position in another agency	44%	+5♠	+19 🐼	+80	+6 ☆
I am pursuing work outside the APS	13%	-1	+4	-1	+2
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	0%	0	-2	-5♥	-6♥
Other	12%	-1	-2	-2	-3

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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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your cur responses):	rent position? (5 highest					
I wish to pursue a promotion opportunity		13%	-	-	-	-
I want to try a different type of work or I'm seeking a career change		11%	-	-	-	-
I am looking to further my skills in another area		10%	-	-	-	-
Senior leadership is of a poor quality		10%	-	-	-	-
My expectations for work in my current position have not been met		8%	-	-	-	-

Key



At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator



At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

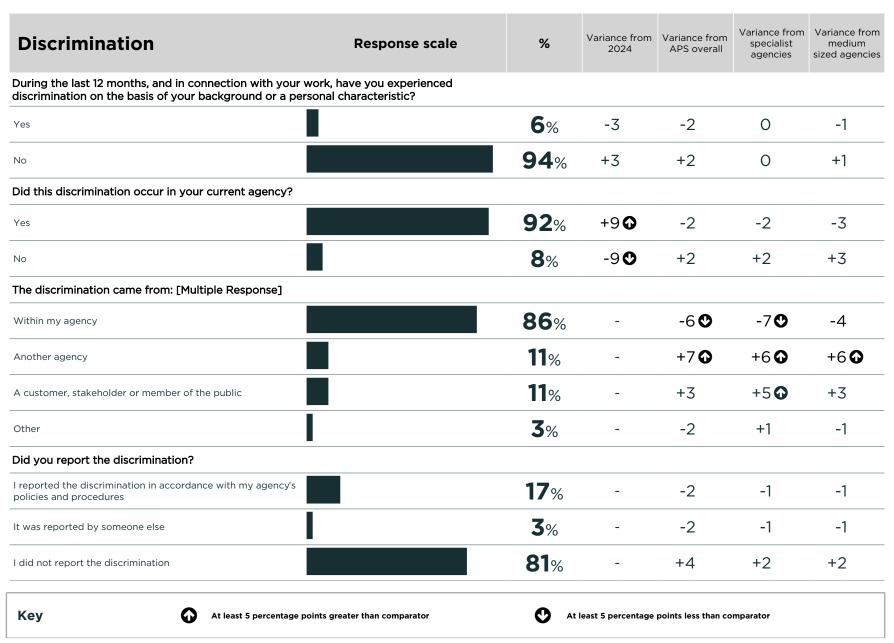


2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 16.

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.





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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
During the last 12 months, have you been subjected to bully workplace?	ing or harassment in your current					
Yes		10%	-2	0	+2	0
No		86%	+3	0	-2	0
Not sure		5 %	-1	0	0	0
Types of bullying or harassment experienced (3 highest res	ponses):					
Interference with work tasks (e.g. withholding needed information, undermining or sabotage)		55 %	-	-	-	-
Deliberate exclusion from work-related activities		53 %	-	-	-	-
Verbal abuse (e.g. offensive language, derogatory remarks, shouting or screaming)		42 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the bullying or harassment?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		24%	-9 0	-13 👁	-10 🛡	-11 👁
It was reported by someone else		13%	+2	+5 ♦	+4	+5 ⊘
I did not report the behaviour		63%	+7 0	+80	+60	+6 ♦



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 specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencie
During the last 12 months, excluding behaviour reported you observed a public official engaging in conduct in yo to be corruption?						
Yes		3 %	0	+1	+1	+1
No		89%	-2	-3	-3	-3
Not sure		5 %	+1	+1	+2	+2
Prefer not to answer		2%	0	+1	0	0
Which of the following reflects the conduct you witness	ed? [Multiple Response]					
Abuse of office		70 %	-	-	-	-
Misuse of information or documents		50 %	-	-	-	-
Adversely affecting the honesty or impartiality of a public official		50 %	-	-	-	-
A breach of public trust		25 %	-	-	-	-
Did you report the conduct?						
I reported the behaviour in accordance with my agency's policies and procedures		32 %	+23 🏠	+6 🐼	+13 🐼	+10 🐼
It was reported by someone else		16%	-1	-1	+1	-2
I did not report the behaviour		53 %	-22 ©	-5 O	-13 👁	-80



2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 19.

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

Key

Demographics

How do you describe your gender?	Responses
Man or male	47%
Woman or female	49%
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	2%
No	98%

Do you have an ongoing disability?	Responses
Yes	8%
No	92%

Do you have carer responsibilities?	Responses
Yes	35%
No	65%

Do you identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and/or gender diverse, Intersex, Queer, Questioning and/or Asexual (LGBTIQA+)?	Responses
Yes	8%
No	92%

Do you identify as culturally or linguistically diverse?	Responses
Yes	16%
No	84%

How would you describe your cultural background? [Multiple Response]	Responses
Australian (excluding Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander)	83%
Australian Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	1%
New Zealander (excluding Maori)	1%
Maori, Melanesian, Papuan, Micronesian, and Polynesian	1%
Anglo-European	20%
North-West European (excluding Anglo-European)	2%
Southern and Eastern European	8%
South-East Asian	7%
North-East Asian	1%
Southern and Central Asian	3%
North American	1%
South and Central American and Caribbean Islander	0%
North African and Middle Eastern	1%
Sub-Saharan African	0%

Do you consider yourself to be neurodivergent?	Responses
Yes	9%
No	78%
Maybe	12%
I am unsure what neurodivergent means	2%

2025 APS Employee Census PAGE 20.



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.

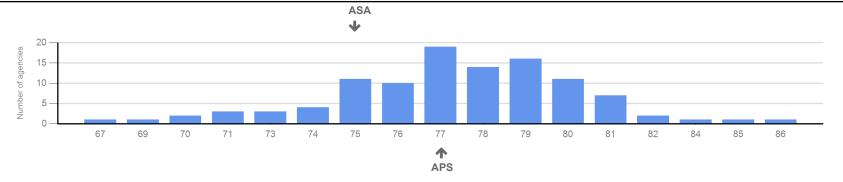
Along the bottom line (x-axis) are the index scores. The height of the bar (y-axis) is how many agencies have that index score.

Please note, the x-axis values are not consecutive as only index scores received by an agency are represented.

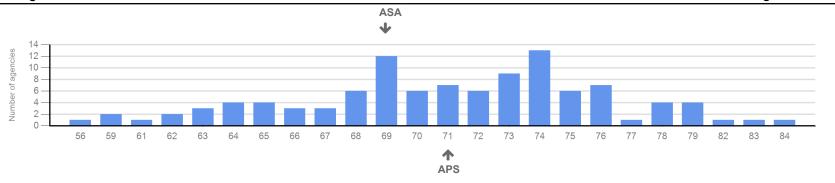




Ranking: 83rd of 107 **Immediate Supervisor Index**



Ranking: 67th of 107 **SES Manager Index**





PAGE 21. 2025 APS Employee Census

Agency position

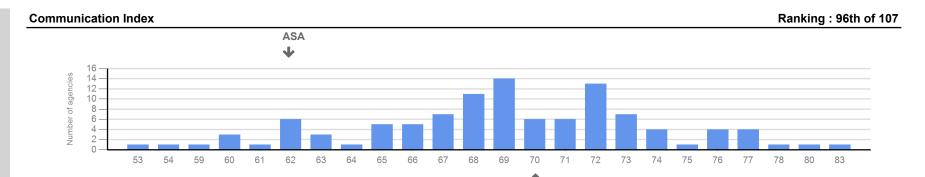


Agency position

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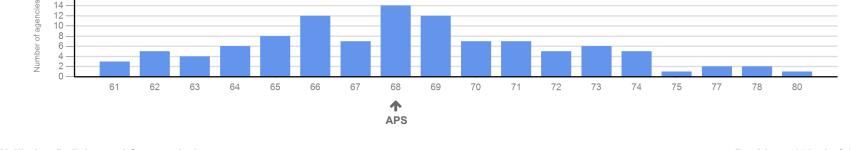
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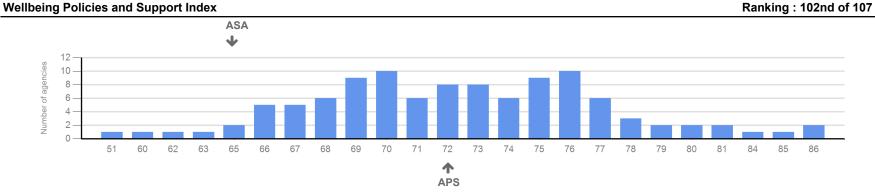
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APS





PAGE 22.



2025 APS Employee Census

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.

	t 5 percentage points greater mparator At least 5 percentage points less than comparator	% Positive	Variance from 2024	Variance from APS overall	Variance from specialist agencies	Variance from medium sized agencies
.1	My agency inspires me to come up with new or better ways of doing things	49%	-1	-100	-110	-100
.2	I am supported to use my expertise to provide frank and fearless advice	64%	-1	-6 º	-60	-5 º
.3	The culture in my agency supports people to act with integrity	65 %	-80	-16 º	-17 ⊙	-16•
.4	Where appropriate, I am able to take part in decisions that affect my job	68%	-2	-4	-6 º	- 5 ⊙
.5	I feel I have the same opportunities as anyone else of my ability or experience	66%	-5 ⊙	-3	-5 º	-4
.6	I am satisfied with the recognition I receive for doing a good job	61%	-2	-80	-110	-9 0



ASA specific questions

	Response scale	% Variance from 2024
Internal communication within my agency is regular	55 21 25	55 % +2
My SES manager effectively leads and manages change	58 24 18	58 % -2
I have the flexibility in my workgroup to use Flexible Work Arrangements	77 14 9	77 % +6 0
Within my workgroup we adopt an agile approach to our work	68 21 11	68% -
My agency prioritises business requirements and re-allocates resources to evolving business needs	43 30 27	43 % +4
My SES engages with my workgroup to ensure workloads are manageable	45 29 26	45 % +2
In my agency employees are encouraged to build professional networks to harness and share expertise	59 24 18	59 % -4
I feel comfortable that if I applied for overtime or TOIL provisions for additional hours that I work this would be approved by my supervisor	68 21 11	68 % +1
My workgroup embodies the Nuclear Mindset Principles	79 12 9	79 % 0
I feel confident to identify deficiencies in the workplace	75 14 11	75 % -2

Australian Government
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Positive Neutral Negative

Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

PAGE 24.

ASA specific questions

	Response scale	% Positive	Variance from 2024
I feel confident that when I have made a mistake I can raise this with my supervisor	91	91%	+1
I am confident to ask questions when I don't think a course of action is appropriate	84 9	84%	-2
I feel I am suitably qualified for the role I am performing	85 10	85%	0
My workgroup has a strong focus on and commitment to security	84 11	84%	-5♥
My agency prioritises creating a positive workplace culture to attract and retain staff	41 25 34	41%	-7♥

Key

At least 5 percentage points greater than comparator

At least 5 percentage points less than comparator

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					

2025 APS Employee Census

PAGE 26.

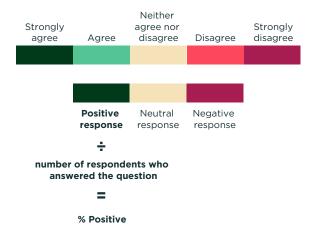
Australian Government

Australian Public Service Commission

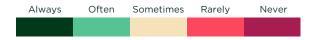
Guide to this report

% 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.

