



Government
of South Australia

people
matter
employee
survey

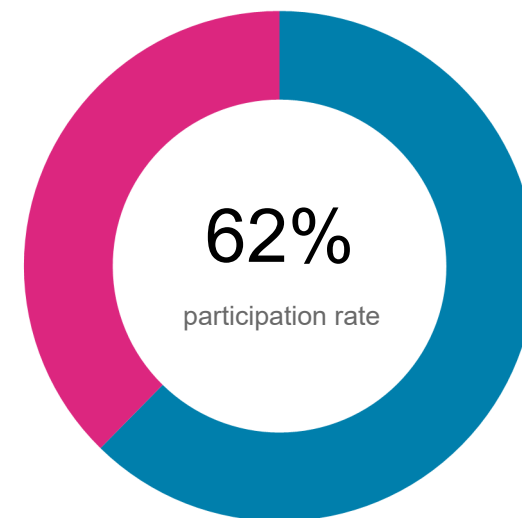
2024 Highlights report

Department for Environment and Water

Survey period: 28 February to 27 March 2024

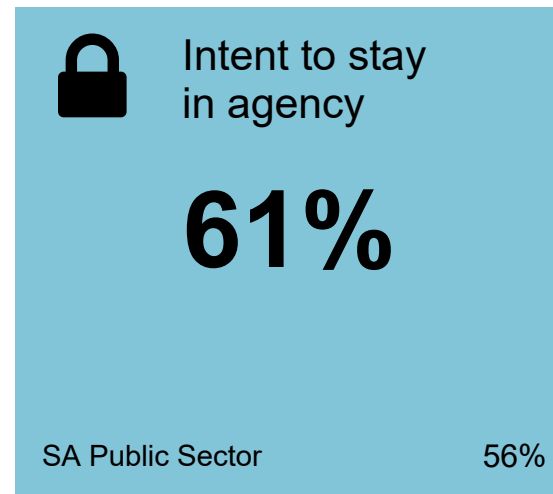
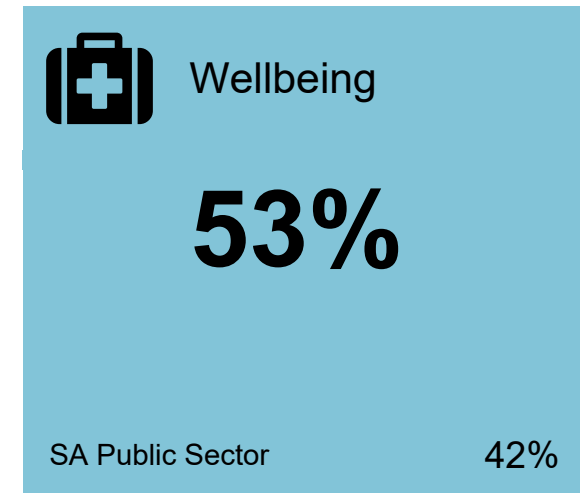
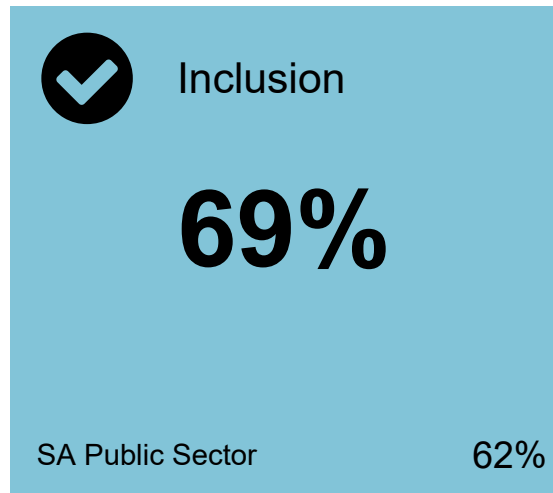
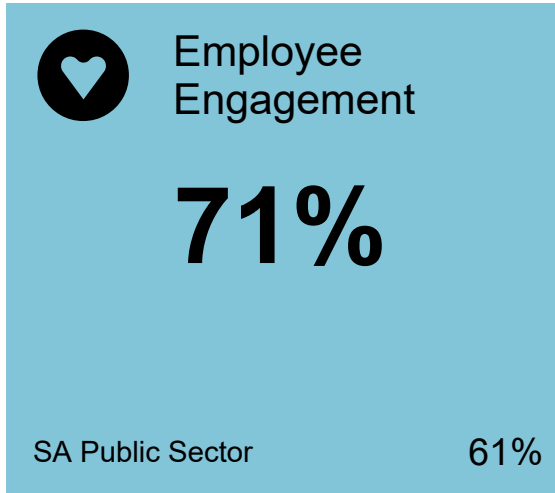
Employees invited: 1,530 (*112 more than 2021*)

Completed surveys: 954 (*20 more than 2021*)





The results below show a summary of the key outcomes from the People Matter Employee Survey 2024.



Significant enhancements were made to the People Matter Employee Survey since 2021. These changes reflect new government priorities and commitments, and changes to legislation. Results were compared to 2021 survey questions for continuity where available. Where there is a dash, this signals that a comparison is unavailable.

Employee Engagement is measured in a new way in 2024, that tells us the extent to which there is positive employee engagement.

If people are engaged, they will be more motivated in their roles.

The top drivers are those most likely to drive an increase in this measure.

71% of employees feel engaged.

Employee Engagement measures

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I would recommend this agency as a great place to work.	77	16	7	77%	63%	68%
My work gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment.	78	14	7	78%	70%	-
This agency motivates me to contribute more than is normally required to complete my work.	56	29	15	56%	48%	-

Top Employee Engagement drivers

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I am proud of my agency's efforts to have a positive impact.	74	19	6	74%	63%	-
Overall, I believe that my career goals can be met at this agency.	59	24	18	59%	52%	45%
I have confidence in senior leaders to make the right decisions for the agency.	53	30	17	53%	48%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative

69% of employees feel included.

Inclusion measures

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
At this agency, everyone can succeed to their full potential no matter who they are.	59	24	18	59%	55%	68%
I can be myself.	80	13	7	80%	71%	-
I feel as if I belong at this agency.	68	25	7	68%	59%	-

Top Inclusion drivers

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I am treated with respect at work.	83	10	6	83%	71%	87%
There is open and honest communication at this agency.	45	33	21	45%	40%	-
This agency shows a commitment to ethical decisions and conduct.	71	22	7	71%	64%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative

Inclusion is measured in a new way in 2024, that tells us the extent to which people feel included.

The inclusion score is the average of the % positive scores for the inclusion questions.

The top drivers are those most likely to drive an increase in this measure.

Wellbeing is measured in a new way in 2024, that measures the overall positive levels of wellbeing of employees.

The Wellbeing score is the total percentage of strongly agree and agree responses.

One question is used to measure the feelings of energy at work which is a strong measure of wellbeing at work.

The top drivers are those most likely to drive an increase in this measure.

53% of employees feel energised.

Wellbeing measures

Wellbeing measures				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I feel energised at work.	53	31	16	53%	42%	-

Top Wellbeing drivers

Top Wellbeing drivers				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I am treated with respect at work.	83	10	6	83%	71%	87%
My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.	78	10	12	78%	70%	81%
I am proud of my agency's efforts to have a positive impact.	74	19	6	74%	63%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative



83% feel the Public Sector is meeting or exceeding their expectations.

Employee experience is a new measure for 2024.

The percentage measures how many people indicate their expectations for working for the agency have been met, exceeded or greatly exceeded.

The top drivers are those most likely to drive an increase in this measure.

Employee Experience measures

			% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
Overall, to what extent does your experience working in your agency meet your expectations.	83	17	83%	71%	-

Top Employee Experience drivers

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
Overall, I believe that my career goals can be met at this agency.	59	24	18	59%	52%	45%
I am proud of my agency's efforts to have a positive impact.	74	19	6	74%	63%	-
There is open and honest communication at this agency.	45	33	21	45%	40%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative



This measure indicates your people's positive intent to stay in your agency for three years or longer.

61% intend to stay working in this agency for at least the next 3 years.

Intent to stay measures

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
Intent to stay working at agency	61	22	17	61%	56%	-

Top Intent to stay drivers

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
Overall, I believe that my career goals can be met at this agency.	59	24	18	59%	52%	45%
My job makes good use of my skills and abilities.	78	10	12	78%	70%	81%
I feel secure in my job.	66	15	19	66%	68%	59%

KEY

% Positive	% Neutral	% Negative
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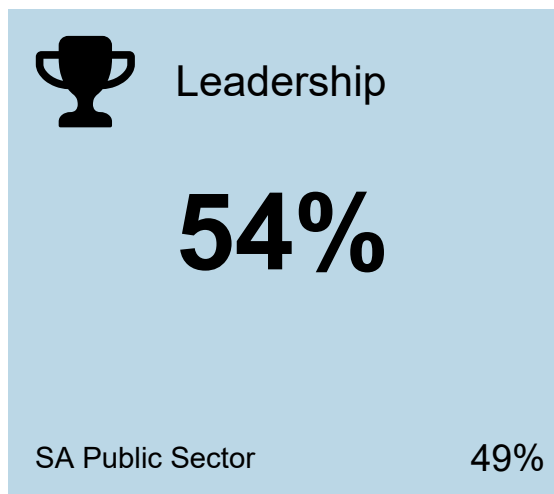
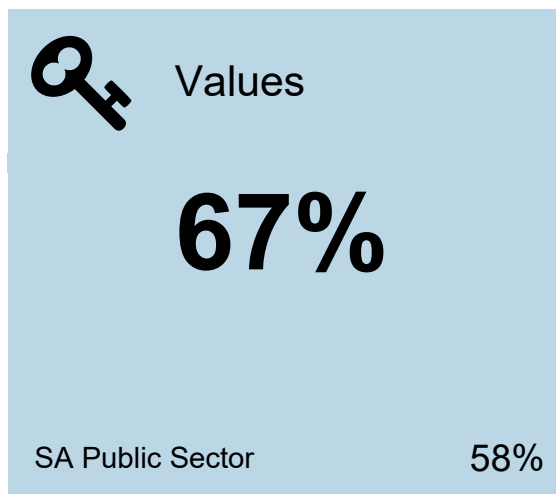
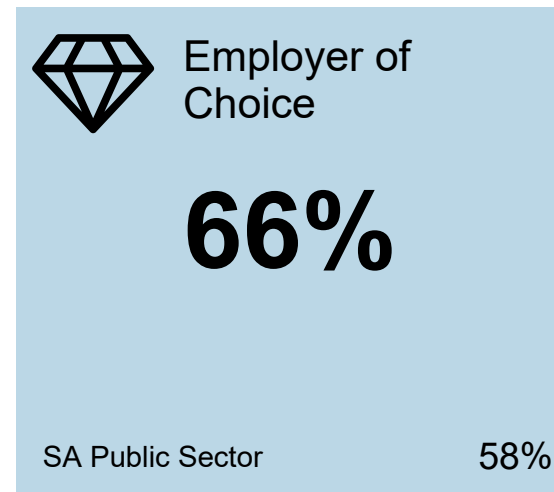
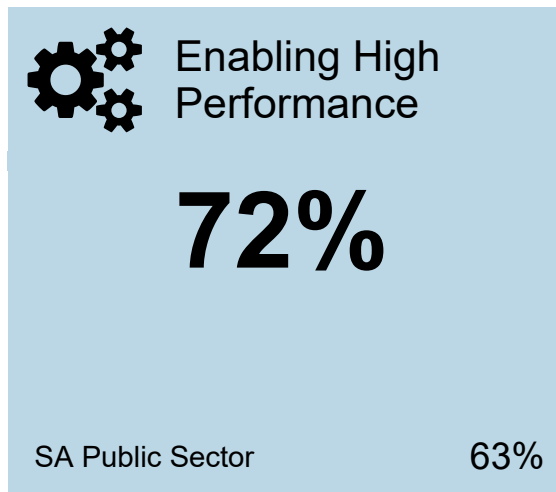
The 2024 results below show a summary of the key public sector priorities identified in the 2021 survey.

Effective leadership, enabling high performance, striving to be an employer of choice and demonstrating the sector values were key priorities identified in the previous survey in 2021.

The Leadership score measures strategic leadership demonstrated at a senior level in agencies.

Each of these scores is calculated as the average of the component questions to provide a comprehensive measure of key public sector priorities.

We will continue to measure progress in these priority areas.



The Management Capability Measure focuses on people manager capability aligned to the Leadership Excellence Framework - the day-to-day behaviours of people managers that directly impact on team members.

These are key behaviours as identified by the public sector's Leadership Excellence Framework (Advance, Inspire and Deliver).

The results below show a summary of Management Capability and the components that make up this measure.



Management Capability

79%

SA Public Sector

68%



Advance (govern well)

78%

SA Public Sector

68%



Deliver (manage well)

79%

SA Public Sector

69%



Inspire (lead well)

81%

SA Public Sector

68%

Advance focuses on establishing purpose, developing strategy, driving integrity, mitigating risk, monitoring results, and investing in public value.

Advance (govern well) 78%

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I have meaningful discussions with my manager about my career development.	61	23	15	61%	57%	-
I trust my manager.	81	12	7	81%	68%	78%
My manager treats people fairly.	85	9	6	85%	72%	-
My manager's behaviour is consistent with the agency values.	84	10	6	84%	73%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative

Deliver emphasises focusing on important matters, driving accountability, enhancing employee engagement, facilitating resource coordination, and embracing new technical solutions and ways of working.

Deliver (manage well) 79%

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I am clear on what is expected of me at work.	82	12	6	82%	80%	85%
I am encouraged to come up with better ways of doing things.	77	14	9	77%	63%	79%
I feel comfortable discussing my mental health and wellbeing with my manager.	71	16	13	71%	59%	61%
I get the help and support I need from my manager.	79	14	7	79%	68%	-
My manager cares about my wellbeing.	87	9	4	87%	74%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative

Inspire involves setting examples, generating enthusiasm, articulating vision, communicating for understanding, creating an optimal work environment, building stronger organisations, fostering collaboration, and developing capability.

Inspire (lead well) 81%

				% Positive	SA Public Sector	2021 Survey
I feel that my manager values my contributions to this agency.	85	9	5	85%	73%	80%
I have regular conversations with my manager about my performance.	74	16	11	74%	59%	56%
My manager regularly reinforces safe behaviours.	84	12		84%	73%	-
My manager values my perspectives, even if they are different from their own.	82	11	6	82%	68%	85%

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative



These results give insight into the extent to which bullying and harassment have been experienced or observed by public sector employees.

PMES questions measured a wider range of respectful behaviours than the 2021 survey to better align with the public sector priorities and strategies to eliminate harmful, negative behaviours in our workplaces.

Bullying was reported separately from sexual harassment in 2024. This reflects the introduction of the *Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights Legislation Amendment (Respect at Work) Act 2022 (Cth)*, and the introduction of a positive duty for employers to eliminate workplace sexual harassment, sex discrimination and sex-based harassment.

The results below show a summary of questions on respectful behaviours.

14% witnessed bullying or harassment *(18% in 2021)*.

11% experienced bullying or harassment *(11% in 2021)*.

14% witnessed and **10%** experienced bullying.

1% witnessed and **1%** experienced sexual harassment.

4% witnessed and **5%** experienced racism.

7% witnessed and **5%** experienced discrimination.

8% experienced violence and aggression.

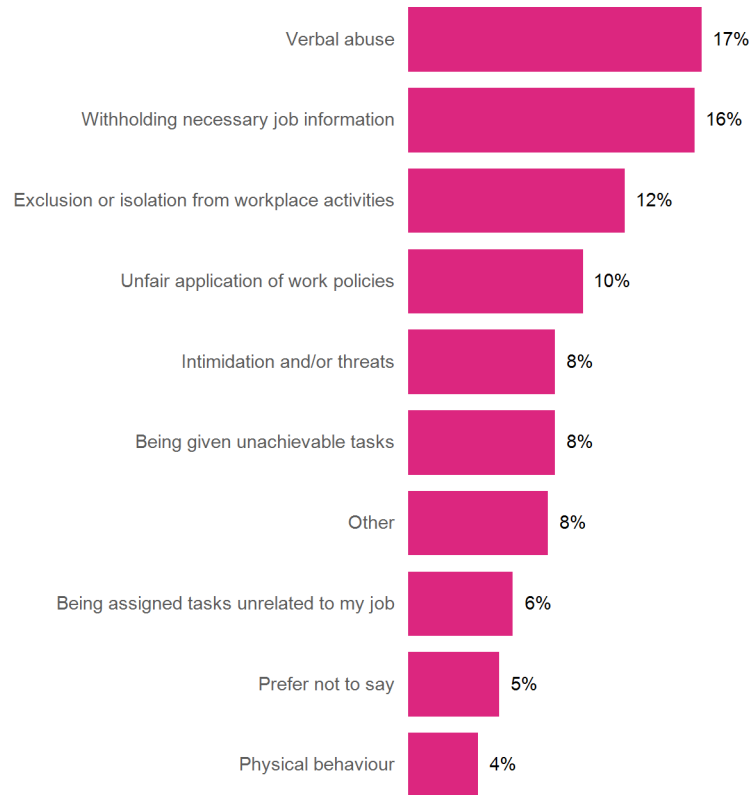


These results give insight into the extent to which bullying has been experienced or observed by public sector employees.

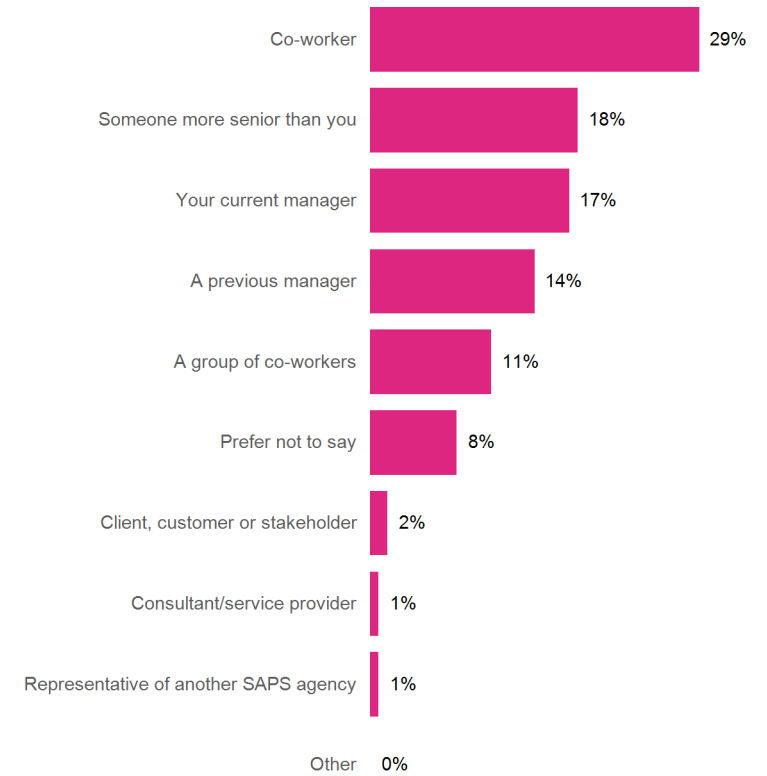
The results for bullying in the workplace are shown below.



Top types of bullying experienced (top 10)



Who was responsible?



KEY



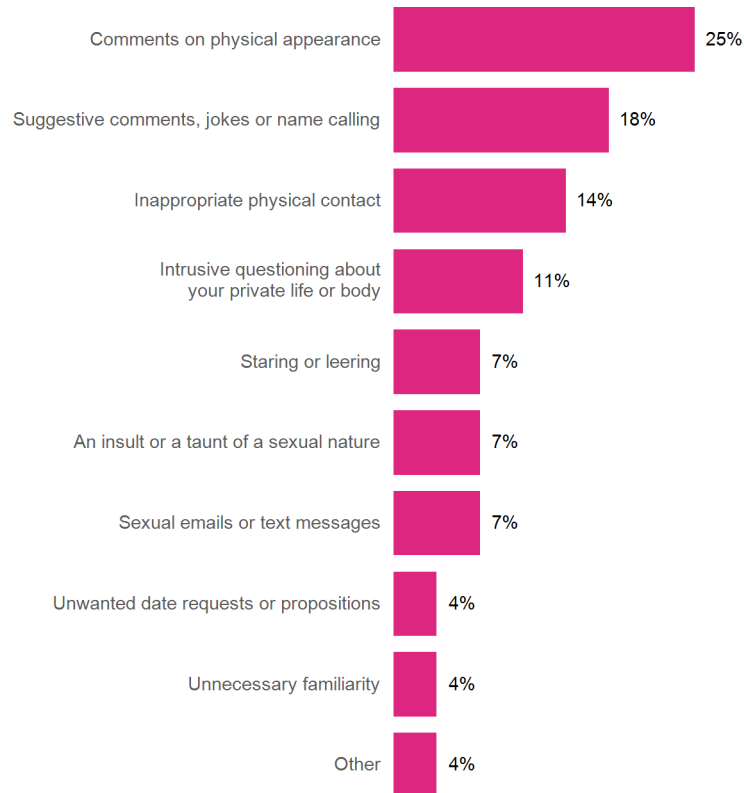


These results give insight into the extent to which workplace sexual harassment has been experienced or observed by public sector employees.

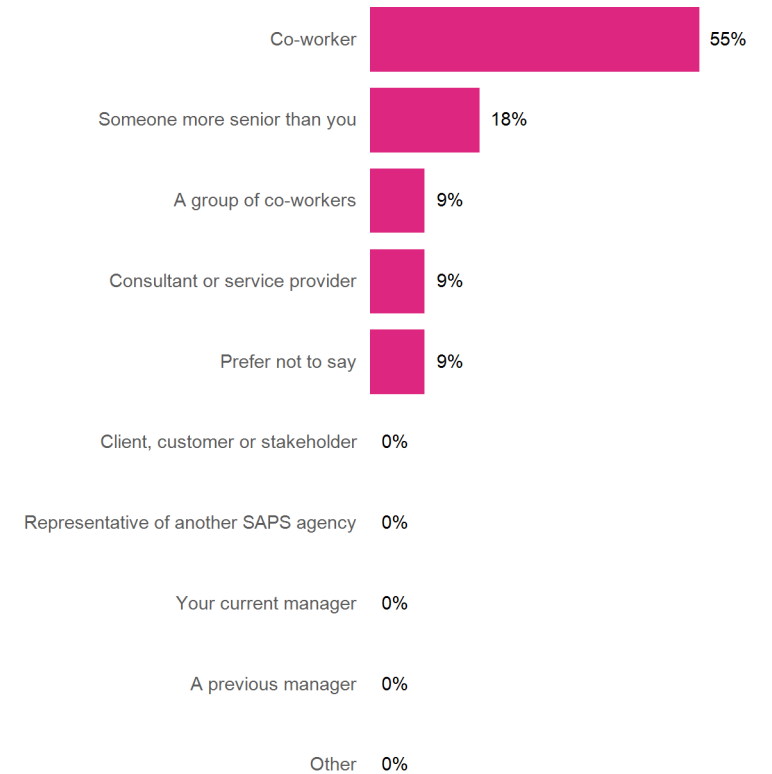
The results for sexual harassment in the workplace are shown below.



Top types of sexual harassment experienced (top 10)



Who was responsible?



KEY



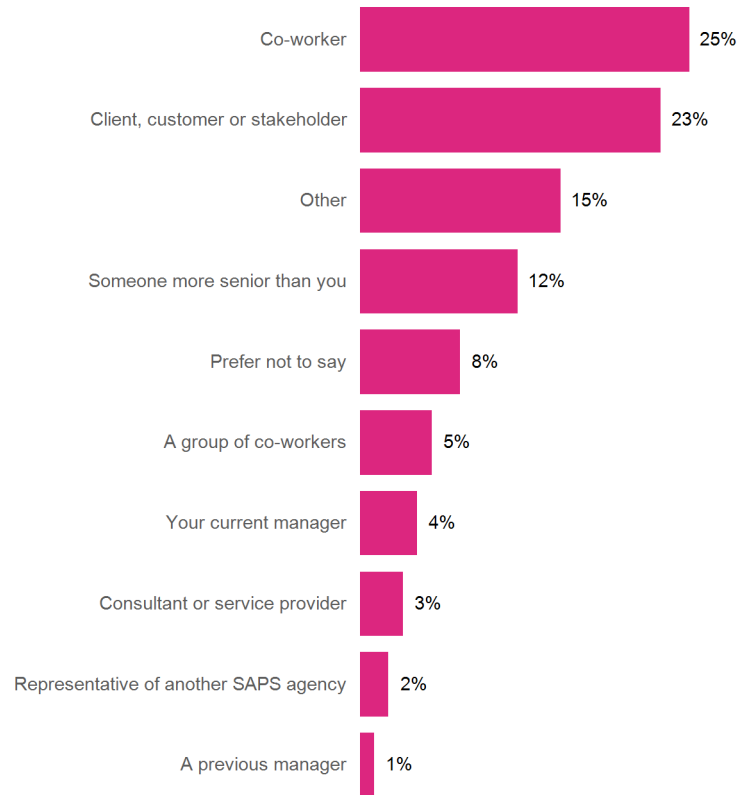


These results give insight into the extent to which racism has been experienced or observed by public sector employees.

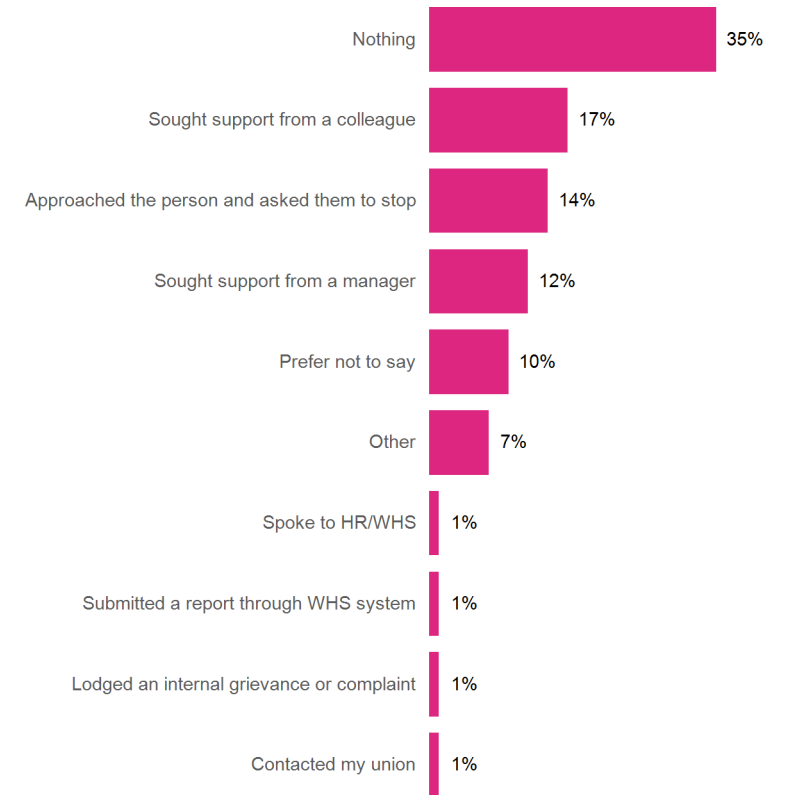
The results for racism in the workplace are shown below.



Who was responsible?



What was done in response to your experience? (top 10)



KEY



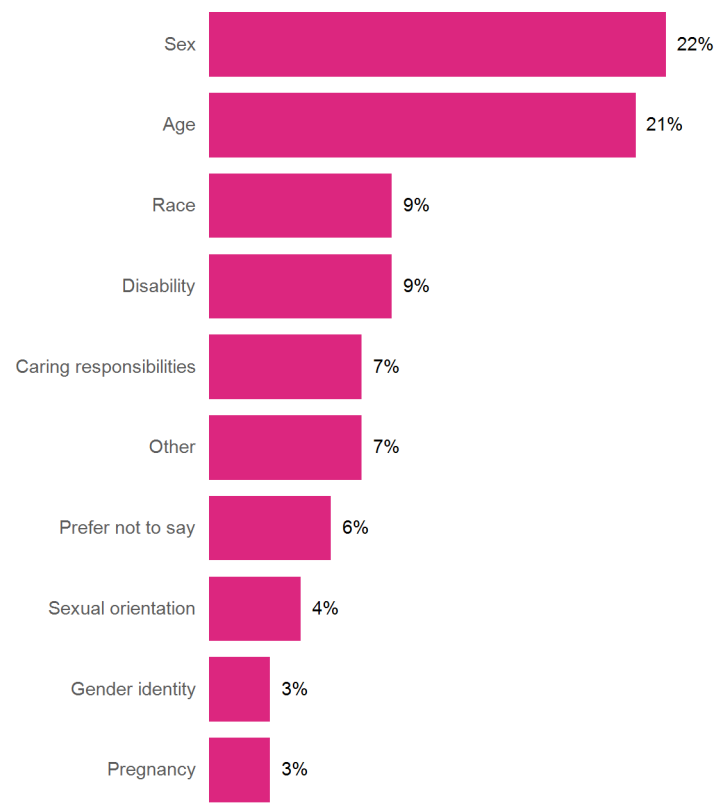


These results give insight into the extent to which discrimination has been experienced or observed by public sector employees.

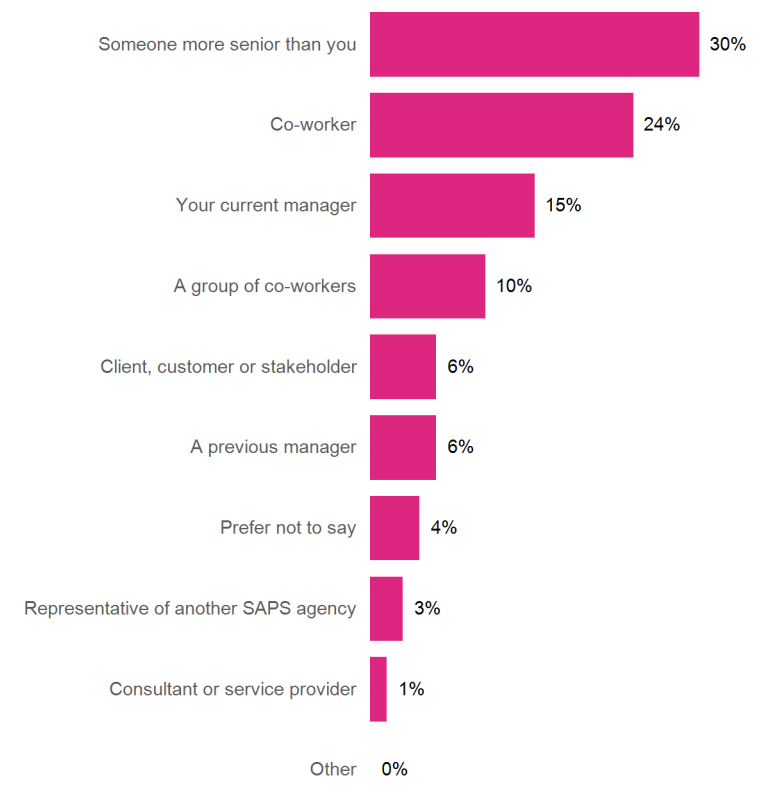
The results for discrimination in the workplace are shown below.



Top types of discrimination experienced (top 10)



Who was responsible?



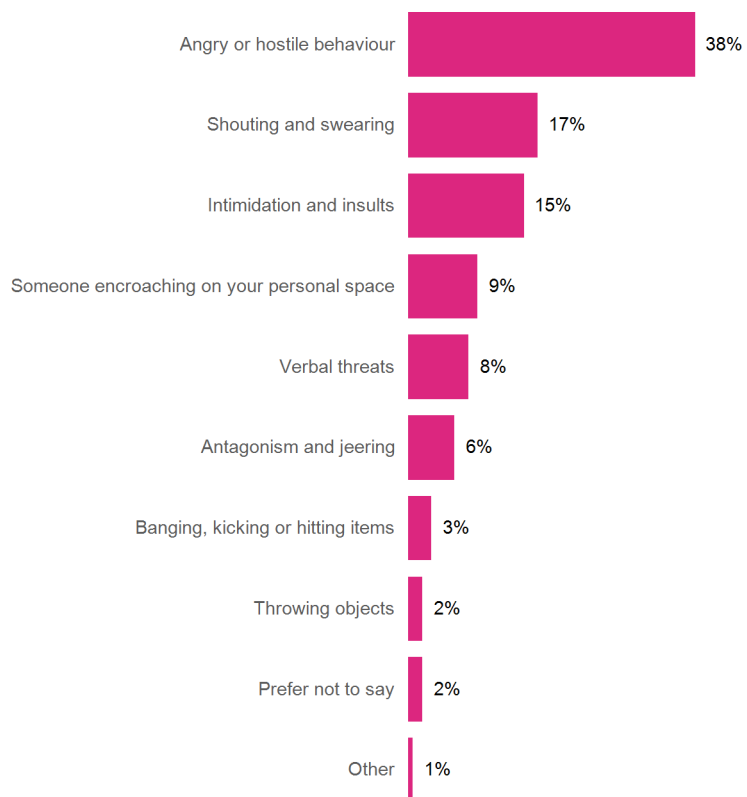


These results give insight into the extent to which workplace violence or aggression has been experienced by public sector employees.

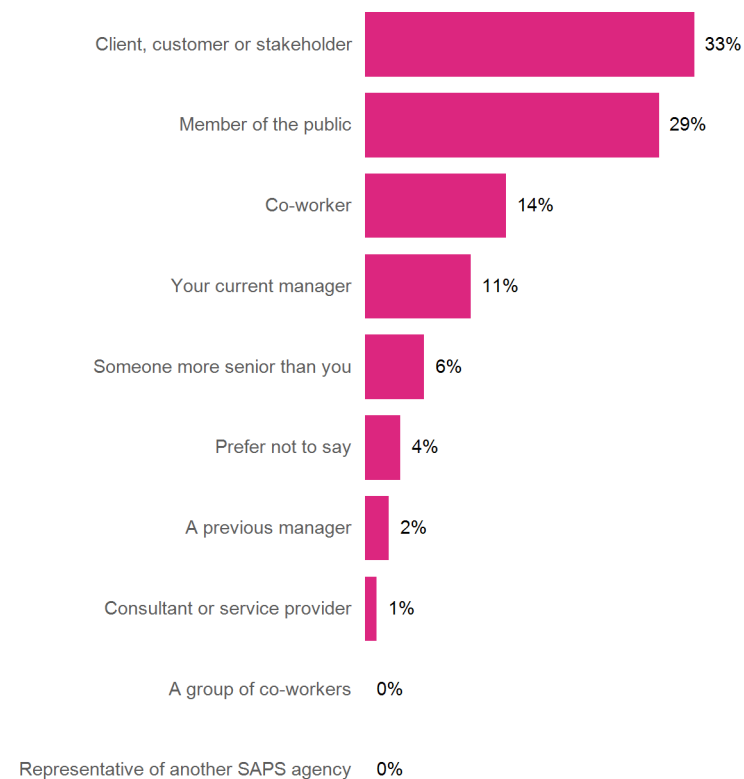
The results for violence and aggression in the workplace are shown below.



Top types of violence and aggression experienced (top 10)



Who was responsible? (top 10)



KEY





These are the additional questions that your agency asked within the survey.

				% Positive	2021 Survey
My branch uses information about its performance to guide decision-making.	45	40	15	45%	-
My manager discusses branch performance openly with employees.	57	28	15	57%	-
An appropriate balance exists between risk and opportunity in my branch.	47	40	13	47%	-
My branch is good at planning for long-term challenges	41	33	26	41%	-
I understand the priorities and outcomes my branch is working to achieve.	76	17	7	76%	-
My branch uses customer feedback to improve the way we do business.	46	40	14	46%	-
My branch regularly collects feedback from customers (internal or external) to improve our services.	43	41	16	43%	-
In my branch, stakeholder needs are always considered during any planning or change processes.	66	25	8	66%	-
Department for Environment and Water has good mechanisms for understanding the needs and views of the public.	57	33	10	57%	-
I understand the needs of my customers (internal or external).	87	11		87%	-
Leaders look outside the organisation to help identify strategic challenges and opportunities.	42	46	12	42%	-
There are adequate mechanisms to recognise high performance in my division.	31	39	30	31%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative



These are the additional questions that your agency asked within the survey.

				% Positive	2021 Survey
I understand Department for Environment and Water's vision and goals.	79	15	6	79%	-

KEY

% Positive

% Neutral

% Negative



These measures are a first for the public sector and address the *Work Health and Safety (Psychosocial Risks) Amendment Regulations 2023* to better address the risks caused by psychosocial hazards at work.

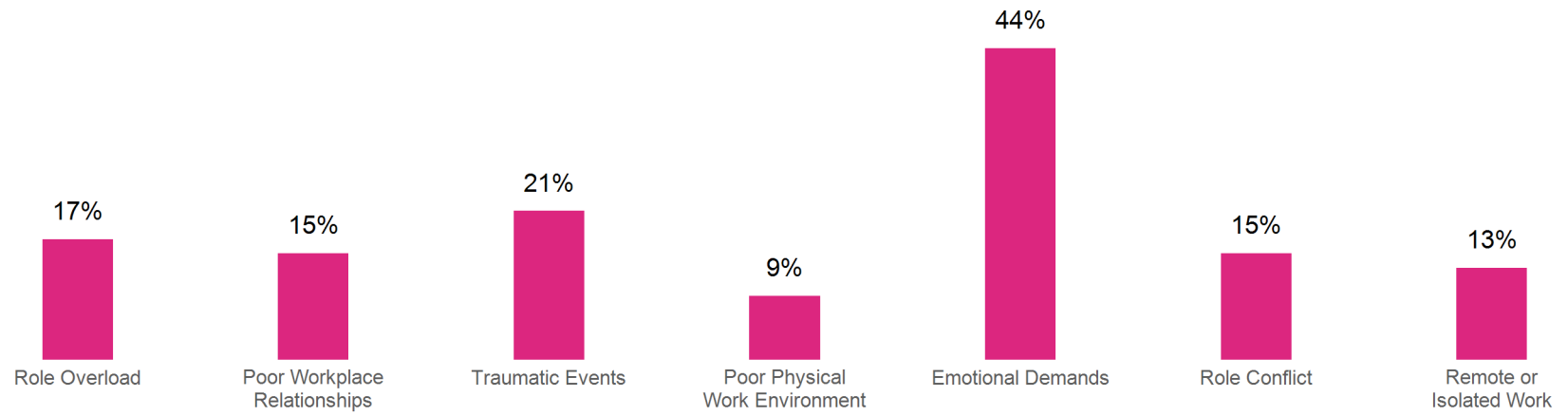
Psychosocial hazards are factors in the design or management of work that can cause stress resulting in poor mental health and / or physical harm.

The Job Demands, Job Resources model has been used in the People Matter Employee Survey to group psychosocial hazards. The model tells us that excessive job demands negatively impact an employee's experience. Job resources can support an employee's wellbeing and contribute positively to an employee's experience.

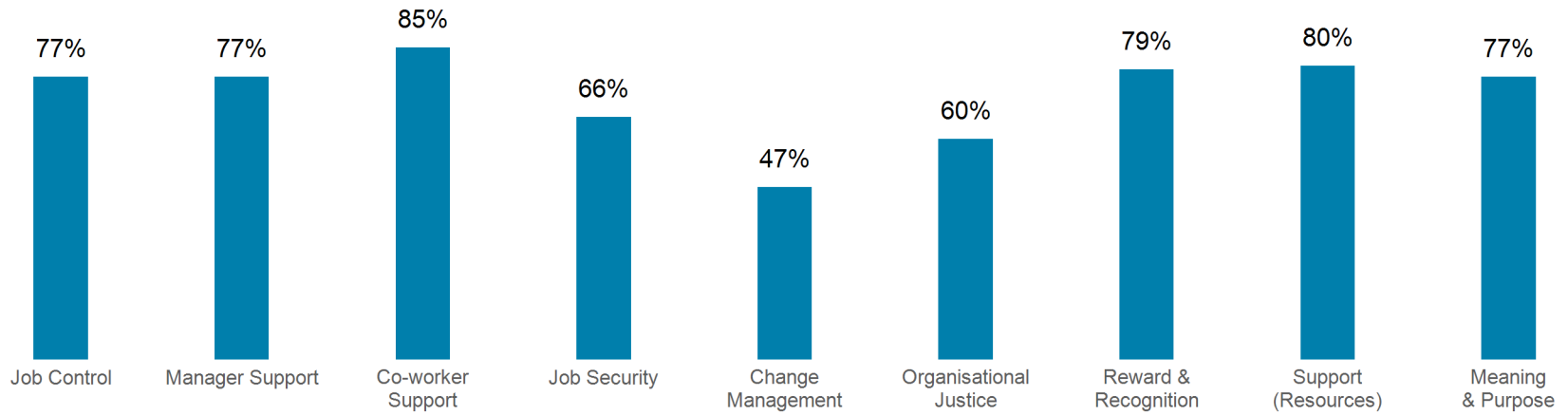
In the job demands results, the higher scoring demands are the areas of opportunity for improvement.

In the job resources results, the lower scoring resources are the areas of opportunity for improvement.

Job demands



Job resources





This is a summary of the demographics of all survey respondents.

Gender	
Woman or female	50.2%
Man or male	40.4%
Prefer not to say	9.0%
Non-binary	(r)
I use a different term	(r)

LGBTIQA+	
Yes	4.6%
No	89.2%
Prefer not to say	6.2%

Disability	
Yes	6.4%
No	87.2%
Prefer not to say	6.3%

Age	
< 20 years	(r)
20 – 29	7.8%
30 – 39	20.2%
40 – 49	30.1%
50 – 59	24.4%
60-64	5.4%
65 +	(r)
Prefer not to say	9.7%

Cultural background	
Australian	71.9%
English	12.8%
Prefer not to say	10.3%
Other	5.2%
Irish	4.2%
German	3.1%
Scottish	2.7%
Aboriginal	2.6%
Italian	2.4%
Chinese	1.4%

Language Other than English spoken at home	
Yes	9.8%
No	85.3%
Prefer not to say	4.9%

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	
Yes	2.6%
No	92.4%
Prefer not to say	5.0%

Carer responsibilities	
Yes	33.2%
No	61.5%
Prefer not to say	5.3%

Types of work	
Program and project management	19.8%
Service delivery (public facing)	18.8%
Other	12.6%
Policy	10.1%
Other service delivery	8.2%
Admin support	6.1%
Finance	5.2%
Corporate services	4.4%
Communications	3.9%
Research	3.6%
ICT	3.5%
Human Resources	1.7%
Legal	1.2%
Ministerial/parliamentary	0.9%

Employment category	
Permanent or Ongoing	69.0%
Temporary or Term Contract	27.4%
Executive Contract	2.3%
Casual	(r)
Traineeship, graduate, internship or apprenticeship program	(r)

Employment status	
Full-time	83.5%
Part-time	16.5%

'r' - The data for this question has been hidden for anonymity reasons.

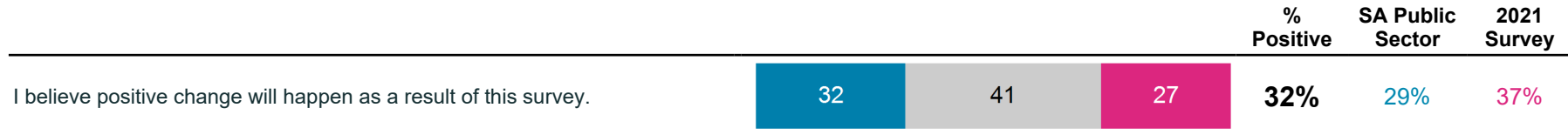


Taking action in response to the results of the PMES survey is important.

Focusing on these drivers will have the biggest impact on employee engagement, Inclusion, wellbeing and employee experience.

These drivers have the potential to improve Key Outcomes through purposeful focus and action across the SA public sector.

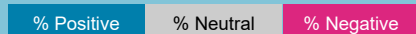
32% believe positive change will happen as a result of the survey.



Summary of Key Drivers:

Key Outcomes	Most impactful driver	Second most impactful driver	Third most impactful driver
Employee Engagement (71%)	I am proud of my agency's efforts to have a positive impact. (74%)	Overall, I believe that my career goals can be met at this agency. (59%)	I have confidence in senior leaders to make the right decisions for the agency. (53%)
Inclusion (69%)	I am treated with respect at work. (83%)	There is open and honest communication at this agency. (45%)	This agency shows a commitment to ethical decisions and conduct. (71%)
Wellbeing (53%)	I am treated with respect at work. (83%)	My job makes good use of my skills and abilities. (78%)	I am proud of my agency's efforts to have a positive impact. (74%)
Employee Experience (83%)	Overall, I believe that my career goals can be met at this agency. (59%)	I am proud of my agency's efforts to have a positive impact. (74%)	There is open and honest communication at this agency. (45%)
Intent to stay in agency (61%)	Overall, I believe that my career goals can be met at this agency. (59%)	My job makes good use of my skills and abilities. (78%)	I feel secure in my job. (66%)

KEY



Since the previous 2021 employee survey, the world of work has changed significantly.

To reflect this changing environment and new priorities, the 2024 People Matter Employee Survey aimed to:

- bridge the gap between HR policy and practice.
- better understand employees' experiences to inform diversity, inclusion, and cultural capability.
- identify and manage risk of psychosocial hazards impacting respectful behaviours and stress.
- assess perceptions of leadership capabilities to prioritise development.

Questions were re-designed to measure **key public sector strategies and priorities**, including:

- anti-racism
- prevention of bullying
- prevention of harassment and discrimination
- diversity, equity and inclusion
- the Multicultural Charter
- the Autism Inclusion Charter
- psychosocial hazards

Two evidence-based frameworks were leveraged to redesign the survey and ensure it provides the SA public sector with a robust and future-proofed measure of employee experience.

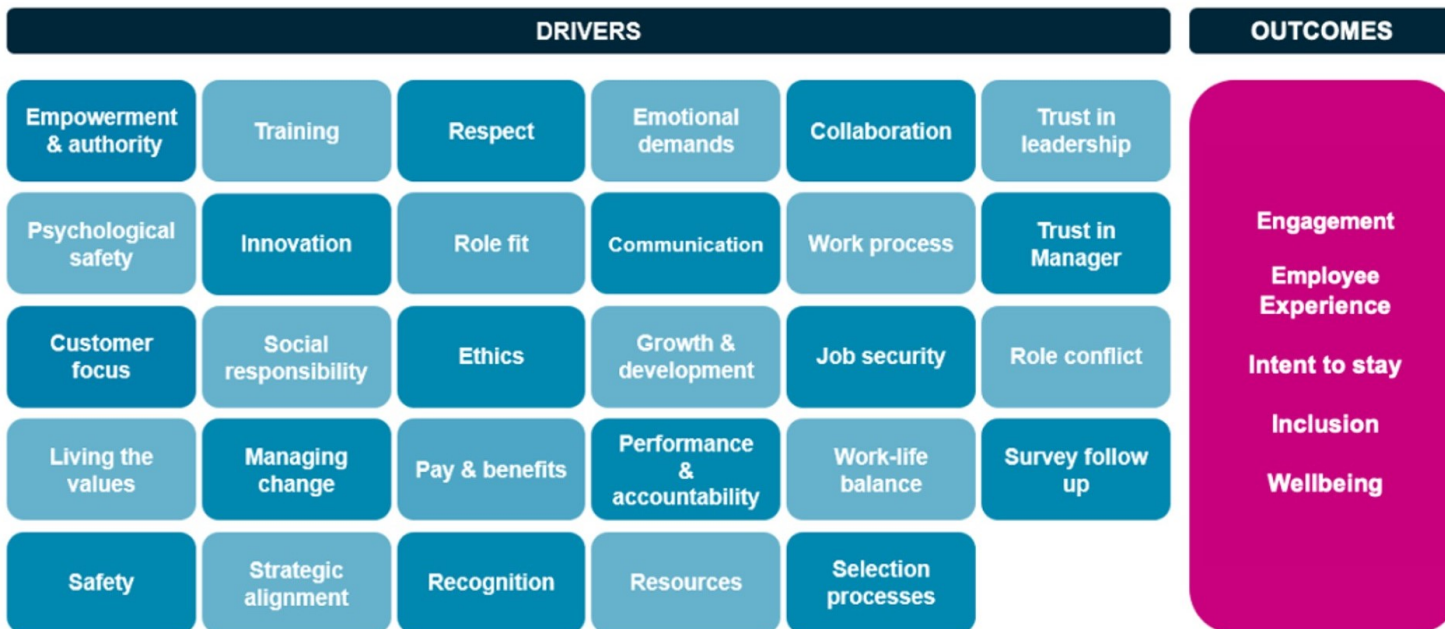
The People Matter Employee Survey 2024 is underpinned by validated, evidence-based models, new regulations and code of practice.

Qualtrics EX25

EX25 is Qualtrics' best-in-class validated approach to measuring and acting on employee engagement and the holistic employee experience. It allows you to measure more of the employee experience with less questions, and is designed to provide practical, actionable insights to help managers/leaders at all levels create meaningful change.

In addition to the measurement of key experience metrics such as engagement, employee experience, intent to stay, inclusion, and wellbeing, the framework also has an embedded management capability index. This index measures actionable manager led behaviours that are key to the experience of employees at work and was also mapped to the South Australian Public Sector Leadership Excellence Framework.

The survey covered the following core survey areas:



SafeWork Australia's Model Code of Practice: Managing psychosocial hazards at work

As a national policy body representing the interests of the Commonwealth, states and territories, as well as workers and employers, Safe Work Australia is responsible for developing Work, Health and Safety Laws. In June 2022, SafeWork Australia amended the Model Work Health and Safety Regulations to include the management of psychosocial risks. Later in July, they released a newly developed model code of practice on managing psychosocial hazards at work under section 274 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (the WHS Act)* - this new code of practice provides practical guidance on how to identify and manage psychosocial risks and achieve the standards required under the regulations.

This is an important step forward, as previously, the management of psychosocial risks has been unregulated in Australian workplaces. With the rising frequency and costs of psychosocial injuries, and after multiple WHS regulation reviews, there is growing awareness of the significance of psychosocial hazards and injuries in the workplace, and commitment to introducing regulations across Australia to elevate psychosocial health and safety to the same level as physical health and safety.

People at Work

The design of the People at Work methodology is underpinned by the Job Demands and Resources Model, and Safe Work Australia's Code of Practice: Managing psychosocial hazards at work.

Australian work health and safety regulators jointly funded People at Work to provide free tools and resources to assist employers to identify psychosocial hazards and factors and implement a psychosocial risk management process at the workplace. Selected key items from the People at Work Survey have been included in the People Matter Employee Survey.