

People Matter Employee Survey 2012

Agency report for South Western
Sydney LHD

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1 Introduction

1.1 About this report

The People Matter Employee Survey 2012 was the first of its kind in the NSW public sector and allowed the Public Service Commission (PSC) to capture employees' perceptions of how well they thought the public sector values are applied across the sector as well as their views on – and experiences in – their workplaces. In this inaugural year of the survey it is creating a baseline for the NSW public sector as a whole and in following years results will be tracked against this baseline.

This year, over 130 agencies participated and more than 60,000 employees voluntarily participated. Sector-wide results have been incorporated into the inaugural State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2012 with more detailed results in the accompanying People Matter Employee Survey 2012 Main Findings Report. Individual reports have been produced for each cluster and for each agency, where the agencies' responses are sufficient to satisfy confidentiality criteria.

This is a companion report developed as part of The State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2012 and readers are encouraged to read the latter report first as it presents the Public Service Commissioner's independent review of the performance of the NSW public sector and includes commentary and high-level analysis of the survey results at a sector level together with additional research undertaken by the PSC. Both The State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2012 and the NSW People Matter Employee Survey 2012 Main Findings Report can be found at www.psc.nsw.gov.au.

1.2 Report overview

Survey methodology

Employee surveys are a good human resource practice in measuring employees' adoption of organisational values, wellbeing, job satisfaction and engagement. The survey question-set was sourced from a number of areas including the Victorian SSA People Matter Survey and the United Kingdom (UK) Civil Service People Survey. Items were further refined through PSC stakeholder discussion, Australian Survey Research (ASR) input and a pilot test with NSW public sector employees.

Delivery

The survey was open from mid-July to mid-August 2012 to all public sector employees across NSW. Employees were given the opportunity to participate either online or by completing a paper survey. Participation was strongly encouraged, though not mandatory. Survey champions were identified in each cluster and agency. The PSC provided a link to the online survey to each of the agency survey champions who subsequently distributed it to employees within their agency. An identical version of the online survey was produced in scannable paper form.

Privacy and confidentiality

The People Matter Employee Survey 2012 was managed by the PSC across the whole of the public sector. PSC engaged ASR to deliver the survey and to analyse the results which form the basis of the Main Findings Report. ASR is a member of the Association of Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) and is bound by AMSRO's strict code of conduct and privacy principles which exceed Australia's National Privacy Principles.

No personalised or individual links were created for the online survey and employees were not tracked when answering online or by paper. Only generic web addresses and forms were used. ASR has produced analysis and reports at summary and aggregate levels. ASR has only provided the PSC with de-identified data.

1.3 Reading the results

Comparisons

All comparisons are from the NSW People Matter Employee Survey 2012 sector-wide and cluster level results. Further information on comparisons is provided in the Technical Information section of this report.

Rounding

Throughout the report, percentages have been rounded to whole numbers. When looking at charts and tables, figures may not always add up to 100%. However, if more decimal places were used, additions would be correct.

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Introduction

Handling of no answers and Don't know responses

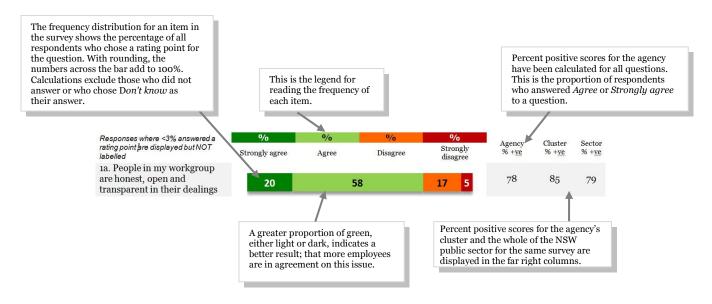
Respondents who did not answer a question or who chose *Don't know* as their response were excluded from all percent positive calculations. Please see the Main Findings Report for more information on questions that had a high proportion of no answers or *Don't know* responses for the sector as a whole.

Negatively worded question

In the People Matter Employee Survey 2012, there was one negatively phrased item: 7j) In my workgroup there is frequently too much work to do. To align with the other items in the survey and to assist with the reading of this report, it has been reworded as a positively phrased item with the responses coded accordingly. For example, if there was 20% agreement to the original statement In my workgroup, there is frequently too much work to do, in this report, the result is presented as 80% agreement to the statement In my workgroup there is not frequently too much work to do.

How to interpret the results

Respondents who did not answer a question or who chose *Don't know* as their response were excluded from all percent positive calculations.



Introduction

1.4 Using the results

The People Matter Employee Survey 2012 provides an important source of information which will be used by the PSC in a number of ways, now as well as in the future.

First, the People Matter Employee Survey 2012 findings support the Commission of Audit recommendations, in particular providing further evidence of the need to focus on leadership and management in the public sector.

Second, the results of the People Matter Employee Survey 2012 have been used by the Public Service Commissioner, Graeme Head, in his inaugural 2012 State of the NSW Public Sector Report when forming his assessment of the performance of the sector. The results of the survey will allow an in-depth exploration of issues facing the sector. The results relating to values for example, were used with an independent Ethics Stocktake to allow the Commissioner to explore the nature of ethics issues, their causes and possible solutions which have been detailed in the State of the NSW Public Sector Report 2012.

Third, sector-wide reporting of employee perceptions can be interpreted alongside statistical data in the workforce profile, giving a powerful insight into the state of the NSW public sector, its strengths and weaknesses and feasible public sector performance improvement strategies.

Fourth, by providing a unique insight into the culture, systems and practices of the NSW public sector a benchmark is established to measure future progress. The PSC plans to run the People Matter Employee Survey biennially, with the next survey due to be run in 2014.

Most importantly, the results of the survey can be used throughout the sector by employees, managers, workgroups, agencies and clusters. These results allow for improvement strategies to be evidence based. The PSC encourages all sector employees to engage with the results of the survey and think about how change can be affected at an individual and systems level to improve results over time.

This section outlines the results at a glance for South Western Sydney LHD.

Throughout this report the agency is sometimes abbreviated as South Western Sydney.

2.1 Agency response

	South Western Sydney LHD	Health	NSW public sector
Number of responses	1,484	17,045	60,779
Response rate	13%	13%	16%
Confidence interval*	± 2%	± 1%	±0.4%
Interpretation*	Statistically representative	Statistically representative	Statistically representative
Web response	98%	94%	94%
Paper response	2%	6%	6%

 $^{{\}it *See technical information section for more information on statistical confidence.}$

2.2 Highlights and lowlights

Respondents were asked to rate 86 questions using a four point rating scale ranging from *strongly agree* to *strongly disagree* whilst other questions in the survey required a yes or no response. The tables below display the agency's five highest and five lowest scoring questions which used the four point rating scale based on the percent positive score.

South Western Sydney highest scoring questions	
Question	% +ve score
7g. I have the skills to do my job effectively	97
3a. My workgroup strives to achieve customer/client satisfaction	94
12b. Gender is not a barrier to success in my workgroup	92
12e. Cultural background is not a barrier to success in my workgroup	91
11d. I am encouraged to report health and safety incidents and injuries	91

South Western Sydney lowest scoring questions	
Question	% +ve score
7j. In my workgroup there is not frequently too much work to do	17
11a. Generally I do not feel stressed at work	46
4d. I believe senior managers provide clear direction for the future of the organisation	47
2h. I feel that senior managers listen to employees	48
5b. My organisation involves employees in decisions about their work	48

2.3 Above and below

The first two tables show where the agency results are above and below its cluster. The following two tables show where the agency results are above and below the NSW sector-wide results. Only items where the agency is $\pm 5\%$ different to the cluster or the sector as a whole are included and a maximum of 10 items is presented in each table. Where there are no items in a table, this means that no questions at the agency level were $\pm 5\%$ from the cluster or NSW sector-wide results.

Above and below agency results against the cluster results

Question	Agency % +ve score	Cluster % +ve score
9c. I feel my job is secure	77	69
10c. My organisation is committed to developing its employees	64	56
5a. I feel that change is handled well in my organisation	51	44
10a. My performance is assessed against clear criteria	71	64
10g. I am able to access the right learning and development opportunities when I need to	66	60
5b. My organisation involves employees in decisions about their work	48	43

Where South Western Sydney scored BELOW is	ts cluster	
Question	Agency % +ve score	Cluster % +ve score
Not applicable		

Above and below agency results against sector-wide results

Where South Western Sydney scored ABOVE the sector		
Question	Agency % +ve score	Sector % +ve score
9c. I feel my job is secure	77	51
10a. My performance is assessed against clear criteria	71	61
5a. I feel that change is handled well in my organisation	51	42
14b. In my organisation the advertised position descriptions accurately reflect the requirements of the job	79	71
10g. I am able to access the right learning and development opportunities when I need to	66	60
10h. Learning and development activities I have completed in the past 12 months have helped to improve my performance	75	69
5b. My organisation involves employees in decisions about their work	48	42

Where South Western Sydney scored BELOW the sector							
Question	Agency % +ve score	Sector % +ve score					
9a. I am fairly paid for the work I do	56	65					
11b. My organisation offers practical employment arrangements and conditions to help employees achieve a work-life balance	54	62					
2e. Members of my workgroup treat each other with respect	70	77					
1c. My manager emphasises the need for impartiality in decision-making	70	77					
1e. My manager would take appropriate action if decision-making processes were found to be biased	71	77					

2.4 Engagement Index

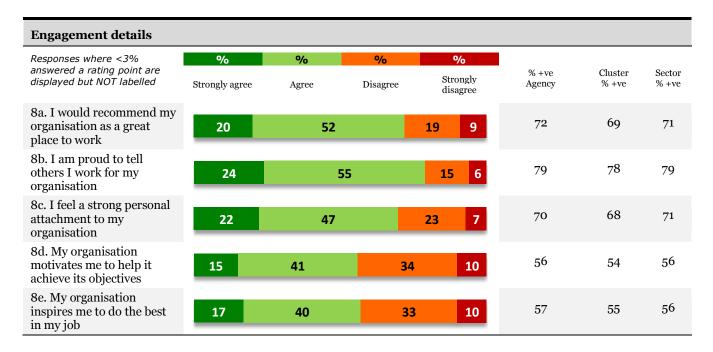
Employee engagement is a relatively new term in human resource management literature, becoming more prominent over the last decade. The concept builds on—but goes further than—employee satisfaction, commitment and motivation. According to the UK Chartered Institute of Personnel Development, "engagement is not about driving employees harder, but about providing the conditions under which they will work more effectively—it is about releasing employees' discretionary behaviour".¹

While there is no single definition of employee engagement, the concept is generally recognised as an employee's connection and commitment to their organisation, its goals and values as a whole. Employee engagement has been attributed to achieving improvements in workforce performance, productivity, motivation, satisfaction, commitment, attendance, and retention. It has also been linked to achievement of higher levels of customer service, improved organisational agility, greater efficiency in driving change initiatives and workplace innovation. A focus of the People Matter Employee Survey 2012 was to explore the factors associated with employee engagement, with a view to providing a better understanding of potential strategies that may be employed within the NSW public sector to improve engagement.

The table below shows Engagement Indices for the agency, its cluster and the sector as a whole.

	South Western Sydney LHD	Health	NSW public sector
Engagement Index	63%	62%	63%

The five items used to generate the Engagement Index for South Western Sydney are displayed below, along with the agency's cluster and sector-wide percent positive scores.



¹Alfes, K., Truss, C., Soane, E., Rees, C. & Gatenby, M (2010) *Creating an Engaged Workforce*, Research Report, Findings from the Kingston Employee Engagement Consortium Project, CIPD January 2010, p.3

² Scottish Executive Social Research (2007), Employee Engagement in the Public Sector: A Review of the Literature, Scottish Executive Social Research, Edinburgh, May 2007

3.1 Public sector values and ethics

This section of the report identifies how South Western Sydney employees perceive the NSW public sector values are demonstrated in their workplace.

Integrity in detail								
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	% Strongly agree	% Agree	% Disagree	9/ Stron disag	ngly	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
1a. People in my workgroup are honest, open and transparent in their dealings	18	56		17	8	75	75	79
1b. My organisation has procedures and systems that ensure objectivity in decision making	11	59		21	10	70	68	70
1c. My manager emphasises the need for impartiality in decision making	18	52		19	11	70	72	77
1d. In my workgroup, people do not show bias in decisions affecting customers	16	56		21	7	72	73	75
1e. My manager would take appropriate action if decision making processes were found to be biased	20	51		18	11	71	72	77
1f. I feel that senior managers model the values of my organisation	14	47	24	1	5	61	57	61
1g. My manager talks to me about how the values apply to my work	10	45	32	1	13	56	56	60
1h. My organisation provides frank, impartial and timely advice to the Government	13	56		20	11	69	69	73

Improper conduct

Within the survey, improper conduct was defined as behaviour that is unethical or wrong, that breaches your organisation's code of conduct, or that compromises your duties.

If '-' appears in a cell in the tables below, it indicates that fewer than 10 people selected the option. In this situation, a number has not been displayed to ensure confidentiality.

Improper conduct				
Activity		% total agency respondents	% total cluster respondents	% total sector respondents
18a. In the last 12 months I witnessed improper conduct at work		34	35	30
	% total agency respondents	% agency respondents who witnessed	% cluster respondents who witnessed	% sector respondents who witnessed
18b. I submitted a formal complaint regarding this conduct	8	25	28	23

Trust in detail							
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	% Strongly agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly disagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
2a. My organisation provides procedures and systems that ensure employees avoid conflicts of interest	13	65		14 8	78	77	80
2b. My manager encourages employees to avoid conflicts of interest	17	(54	12 7	81	81	85
2c. I am confident that I would be protected from reprisal for reporting improper conduct	12	45	24	19	57	55	58
2d. My organisation strives to earn and sustain a high level of public trust	20		64	11 5	84	84	85
2e. Members of my workgroup treat each other with respect	19	51		21 8	70	72	77
2f. My manager treats employees with dignity and respect	26		48	16 10	74	74	78
2g. Members of my workgroup treat customers/clients with respect	32		59	7	91	91	92
2h. I feel that senior managers listen to employees	10	38	30	22	48	46	49
2i. I feel that senior managers keep employees informed about what's going on	9	41	30	21	50	46	48
2j. My manager listens to what I have to say	22	5	52	14 11	75	75	78
2k. My manager keeps me informed about what's going on	18	49		21 12	67	66	69

Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	% Strongly agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly disagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
3a. My workgroup strives to achieve customer/client satisfaction	34		59	5	94	94	94
3b. My organisation strives to match services to customer/client needs	24		58	12 6	82	83	84
3c. My manager is committed to ensuring customers/clients receive a high standard of service	29		55	12 4	84	86	88
3d. My organisation provides high quality services to the community	27		57	12 4	84	86	85
3e. My organisation supports better practice so we can provide better service	24		57	13 6	81	81	80
3f. My workgroup uses research and expertise to identify better practice	22		56	16 5	79	79	77
3g. My organisation ensures Government policies and programs affecting the community are implemented equitably	20		63	11 5	83	83	83
3h. I feel that the NSW public sector is innovative	9	44	32	15	53	49	50

Accountability in detail							
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	% Strongly agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly disagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
4a. My organisation always tries to improve its performance	20		62	13 5	82	80	80
4c. I receive useful feedback on my performance to enable me to deliver required results	13	50		26 11	63	59	61
4d. I believe senior managers provide clear direction for the future of the organisation	9	39	36	17	47	44	46
4e. My manager appropriately deals with employees who perform poorly	10	40	29	21	49	47	50
4f. People in my workgroup use time and resources efficiently	14	57		21 8	71	73	75
4g. My manager encourages people in my workgroup to monitor and improve the quality of what they do	16	56		18 10	72	72	75

3.2 Bullying

The following description was provided to survey respondents to help define what was meant by the term bullying.

Workplace bullying is repeated, unreasonable behaviour directed to an employee or a group of employees that creates a risk to health and safety. Types of behaviour that could be considered bullying include: verbal abuse, excluding or isolating employees, psychological harassment, intimidation, assigning meaningless tasks unrelated to the job, giving employees impossible assignments, deliberately changing work rosters to inconvenience particular employees, deliberately withholding information that is vital to effective work performance.

Bullying should not be confused with legitimate feedback given to staff (including negative comments) on their work performance or work-related behaviour; or other legitimate management decisions and actions undertaken in a reasonable and respectful way.

If '-' appears in a cell in the tables below, it indicates that fewer than 10 people selected the option. In this situation, a number has not been displayed to ensure confidentiality.

Witnessed or experienced bullying at work (% total respondents)			
	% agency	% cluster	% sector
Witnessed bullying at work in the last 12 months	56	59	48
Personally experienced bullying at work in the last 12 months			
Experienced in last 12 months, but not currently	22	23	19
Currently experiencing this behaviour	12	13	10
Have not personally experienced bullying at work in the last 12 months	61	59	66
Not sure that they experienced bullying at work in the last 12 months	5	4	5

IF personally bullied in last 12 mont	hs			
Bullied by:	% all agency respondents*	% agency respondents who were bullied *	% cluster respondents who were bullied *	% sector respondents who were bullied *
A fellow worker	15	45	46	40
Your immediate manager / supervisor	13	37	38	38
A senior manager	11	32	35	35
A group of fellow workers	6	18	16	14
A client/customer	5	14	11	11
A subordinate	3	8	8	8
A member of the public	4	11	9	8
Prefer not to specify	2	7	6	6
Other	2	5	3	3

^{*}Respondents could choose multiple options, so percentages may add to more than 100%

The most common forms of bullying are displayed in the table below.

Nature of bullying experienced in la	st 12 months			
Type:	% all agency respondents*	% agency respondents who were bullied *	% cluster respondents who were bullied *	% sector respondents who were bullied *
Verbal abuse	16	47	45	43
Exclusion/isolation	14	42	43	43
Psychological harassment	13	39	38	39
Intimidation	20	59	62	59
Being assigned meaningless tasks unrelated to the job	6	17	15	17
Given impossible assignments	5	14	10	12
Deliberately changing work rosters to inconvenience you	4	13	12	12
Deliberately withholding information vital to your effective work performance	10	28	28	30
Other	4	12	13	14
Prefer not to specify	4	12	14	17

^{*}Respondents could choose multiple options, so percentages may add to more than 100%

If personally bullied in last 12 months,	If personally bullied in last 12 months, have you submitted a formal complaint?								
% agency % cluster % sect									
Yes	20	24	21						
No	80	76	79						

3.3 Your experiences

The following topics are about employees' workplaces, the work they do, their health and wellbeing at work and awareness of various policies and procedures within their agency.

My organisation							
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	% Strongly agree	% Agree	% Disagree	% Strongly disagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
5a. I feel that change is handled well in my organisation	6	46	36	13	51	44	42
5b. My organisation involves employees in decisions about their work	6	42	34	18	48	43	42
5c. My organisation is making the necessary improvements to meet our future challenges	8	50	28	13	59	57	58
5d. I feel I make a contribution to achieving the organisation's objectives	19		65	10 6	84	84	84
5e. My organisation's involvement in the community helps motivate staff	11	50	2	9 11	61	59	62
5f. My organisation's involvement in the community is strongly linked to its purpose	16	58		18 8	74	73	75

My manager								
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	% Strongly agree	% Agree	% Disagree		% rongly sagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
6a. My manager assigns work to people in my workgroup based on their skills and expertise	17	53		18	11	71	72	74
6b. My manager encourages and values employee input	20	49		18	12	70	70	73
6c. My manager communicates effectively with me	22	48		18	12	70	69	72
6d. My manager provides acknowledgement or other recognition for the work I do	19	45		21	15	64	64	68
6e. My manager encourages me to be more effective in my job	17	50		22	11	67	68	71
6f. My manager involves my workgroup in decisions about our work	16	48		22	13	65	64	66

Responses where <3% answered a rating	%	%	%	%	Agency	Cluster	Sector
point are displayed but NOT labelled	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	% +ve	% +ve	% +ve
7a. I am proud to work for the NSW public sector	29	29 58		10 4	86	84	86
7b. I view the NSW public sector as an employer of choice	24		55	16 5	79	76	79
7c. I understand how my work contributes to my organisation's objectives	27		64	7	90	91	92
7d. I receive help and support from other members of my workgroup	25 60		10 4	85	86	88	
7e. There is good team spirit in my workgroup	26	4	16	18 10	72	71	75
7f. I am encouraged to be innovative in my work	18	50		23 9	68	65	68
7g. I have the skills to do my job effectively	44		53		97	96	96
7h. I have the tools I need to do my job effectively	21	5 1	l .	21 7	72	72	74
7i. I get the information I need to do my job well	19	5	6	19 5	76	73	74
7j. In my workgroup there is not frequently too much work to do	14	41		42	17	20	21

Decrees where 20% arranged a setting	%	%	%	%		61 .	a .
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
9a. I am fairly paid for the work I do	9	47	29	14	56	59	65
9b. I am satisfied with my total benefits package	9	49	30	12	58	61	63
9c. I feel my job is secure	17	59		16 7	77	69	51
9d. I am satisfied with my job	17	55		20 8	72	73	74

Responses where <3% answered a rating	%	%	%	%	Agency	Cluster	Sector
point are displayed but NOT labelled	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	% +ve	% +ve	% +ve
10a. My performance is assessed against clear criteria	13	58		21 8	71	64	61
10b. I receive regular feedback on my performance	10	45	34	11	55	51	52
10c. My organisation is committed to developing its employees	11	52	25	12	64	56	59
10d. My manager ensures fair access to developmental opportunities for people in my workgroup	14	55		19 12	69	66	69
10e. My manager considers my needs and career aspirations when approving development plans	13	50	24	14	63	60	62
10f. I am satisfied with the opportunities available for career development	9	46	29	15	56	52	51
10g. I am able to access the right learning and development opportunities when I need to	11	56	2	11	66	60	60
10h. Learning and development activities I have completed in the past 12 months have helped to improve my performance	17	58		17 8	75	73	69
r		%	%				
		Yes	No		Agency % yes	Cluster % yes	Sector % yes
10i. In the last 12 months I have received a formal performance appraisal/review		62		38	62	51	49
10j. In the last 12 months I have received informal feedback on my performance		62		38	62	62	66

Health and well being Responses where <3% answered a rating Agency Cluster Sector Strongly point are displayed but NOT labelled Strongly agree Disagree Agree disagree 11a. Generally I do not feel stressed 46 47 50 5 40 34 21 at work 11b. My organisation offers practical employment arrangements and 62 54 55 9 45 28 18 conditions to help employees achieve a work-life balance 11c. My manager takes into account the differing needs and 66 66 70 12 54 19 15 circumstances of employees when making decisions 11d. I am encouraged to report 91 90 90 31 60 health & safety incidents & injuries **Equal employment opportunity** % % Responses where <3% answered a rating Agency Cluster Sector Strongly point are displayed but NOT labelled Strongly agree Agree Disagree % +ve % +ve % +ve disagree 12a. Equal employment opportunity 85 85 84 **59** is provided in my organisation 24 12b. Gender is not a barrier to 88 92 91 29 63 success in my workgroup 12c. Disability is not a barrier to 88 86 86 24 64 9 3 success in my workgroup 12d. Age is not a barrier to success 89 86 90 27 63 7 3 in my workgroup 12e. Cultural background is not a 91 91 92 29 6 3 63 barrier to success in my workgroup

62

27

12f. My organisation is committed to

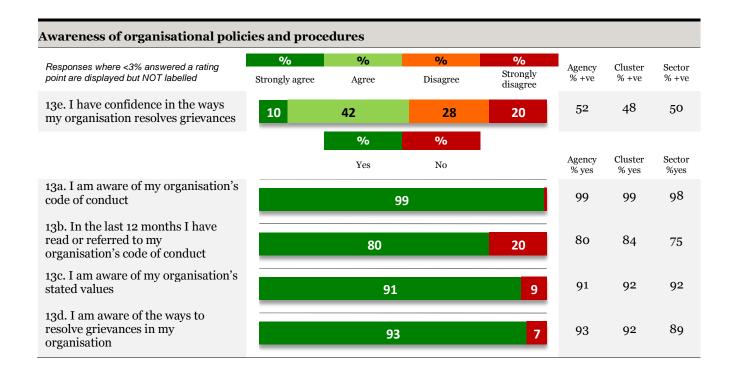
creating a diverse workforce

89

7 3

89

88



	%	0/0	0/0	%	1		
Responses where <3% answered a rating point are displayed but NOT labelled	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Agency % +ve	Cluster % +ve	Sector % +ve
14a. My organisation has good procedures and processes for recruiting employees	11	44	28	17	55	52	56
14b. In my organisation the advertised position descriptions accurately reflect the requirements of the job	13	66		13 7	79	76	71
14c. My manager is sufficiently skilled to make good selection decisions	21	55		11 12	77	76	77

4 Technical information

Glossary of key terms

Percent positive % +ve	The percent positive score is the number of respondents who selected a rating point of <i>Agree</i> or <i>Strongly agree</i> divided by the total number of respondents who selected any rating point. This excludes responses of <i>Don't know</i> and no answers.
PSC	NSW Public Service Commission
Cluster	In the NSW Government the various entities and organisations are now grouped into nine clusters. Clusters are groupings around service delivery areas like education, health, human services, transport, economic development and justice. Clusters enable better linkages between organisational subgroups and provide more integrated services to the community.

Exclusion of question 4b

The PSC acknowledges an error in the wording of one statement in the People Matter Employee Survey 2012. Accordingly the results for 4b) My organisation's decisions and actions are open to review by employees have been excluded from the report.

Employee Engagement Index

The survey included five questions which were used to calculate an engagement index for each respondent. A score indicates the average level of engagement of all people who responded and ranges from 0 to 100. An index score of zero indicates that all respondents *Strongly disagree* with all five engagement questions, while a score of 100 indicates that all respondents *Strongly agree* with all five engagement questions.

Confidence level and interval

Attitudinal research is normally conducted at a 95% confidence level (p<0.05) and aims for a ±5% confidence interval.

Representativeness of a sample is usually assessed at a 95% confidence level (accuracy) and a \pm 5% confidence interval (precision).

The **confidence level** tells you how sure you can be. It is expressed as a percentage and represents how often the true percentage of the population who would pick an answer lies within the confidence interval. The 95% confidence level means you can be 95% certain; the 99% confidence level means you can be 99% certain. Most researchers use the 95% confidence level.

The **confidence interval** is the plus-or-minus figure usually reported in newspaper or television opinion poll results. For example, if you use a confidence interval of 4 and 47% of your sample picks an answer, you can be "sure" that if you had asked the question of the entire relevant population between 43% (47-4) and 51% (47+4) would have picked that answer.

When you put the confidence level and the confidence interval together, you can say that you are 95% sure that the true percentage of the population is between 43% and 51%.

Reference: www.surveysystem.com/sscalc.htm