

Agency Report

NSW Rural Fire Service

- Survey period: 18 August to 12 September 2025
- Completed surveys: 1,101
- Response rate: 80% +7 compared to 2024
- Portfolio: Communities and Justice







Organisational hierarchy

This shows where the report unit sits in the survey's organisational hierarchy.

NSW public sector

- Communities and Justice
 - ▶ NSW Rural Fire Service

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High level results

Discover key employee experience insights

Headline results for key topics

These are the % favourable scores for key survey topics. Each topic relates to an area of employee experience.



We've flagged the top 3 and bottom 3 topics. Use these topics as a starting point for exploring your results.

See 'Additional information about the survey' for interpretation guidance and details about the survey model.



0pp vs 2024

Outcomes Employee engagement 62 +1 vs 2024 Job satisfaction 65% +1pp vs 2024 Wellbeing 53% +2pp vs 2024 **Customer service** 56%

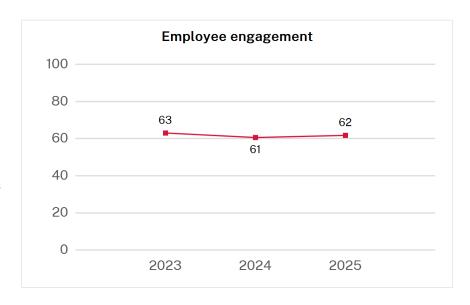
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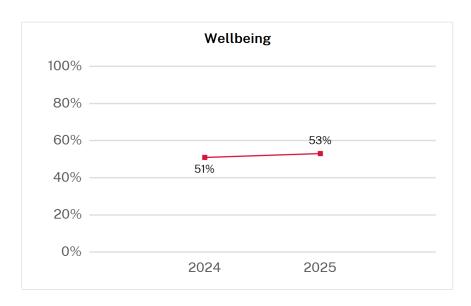
-1pp vs 2024

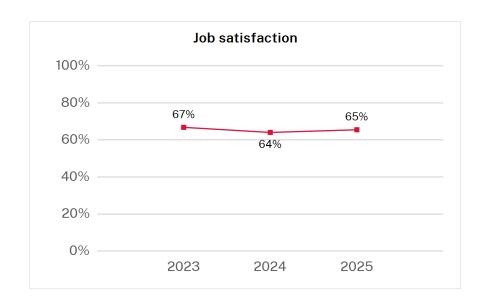
Long-term trend

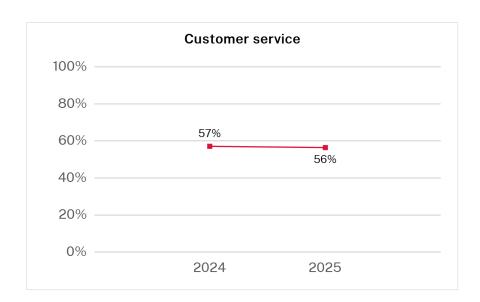
This page shows results for the past three years (2023-2025) for the key outcomes.

Comparing results side by side highlights changes over time, showing where progress has been made, where outcomes are stable, and where further focus may be needed.









Most and least improved questions

These are the most and least improved questions by difference from the previous year.

Consider why these scores have shifted. Was it due to actions taken in response to last year's survey results or something else?

Most improved questi	ons		2025 % favourable	difference from 2024
Employee engagement	7h	I would recommend my organisation as a great place to work	48%	+5
Communication and change management	7q	I have the opportunity to provide feedback on change processes that directly affect me	43%	+4
Communication and change management	6a	My senior executives provide clear direction for the future of the organisation	35%	+4
Other wellbeing	1q	I am struggling to maintain enthusiasm for my work (disagree)	40%	+3
Customer service	6d	My senior executives communicate the importance of customers in our work	52%	+3

Least improved quest	ions		2025 % favourable	difference from 2024
Other wellbeing	1p	I feel mentally exhausted by my work on most days (disagree)	30%	-6
Feedback and performance management	Зе	My performance is assessed against clear criteria	34%	-5
Employee voice	8a	I am comfortable sharing a different view to others in my organisation	61%	-4
Action on survey results	9b	I am confident my organisation will act on the results of this survey	24%	-4
Ethics and values	7n	My organisation shows a commitment to ethical behaviours	54%	-4

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Highest and lowest scoring questions

These are the questions with the highest and lowest % favourable scores. % favourable is based on the respondents who selected 'strongly agree' or 'agree'.

• Questions with th	Questions with the highest favourable scores						
Ethics and values	7v	I am aware of my obligations under the Code of Ethics and Conduct in my organisation	96%	0			
Ethics and values	7r	I understand what ethical behaviour means within my workplace	94%	0			
Ethics and values	70	I support my organisation's values	90%	0			
Ethics and values	7s	I would know how to report unethical behaviour if I became aware of it	87%	-1			
Other wellbeing	1m	I am able to adapt when changes occur	87%	+2			

Questions with the low	Questions with the lowest favourable scores					
Communication and change management	7b	Change is managed well in my organisation	15%	0		
Action on survey results	9a	My organisation has made improvements based on the survey results from last year	17%	-		
Action on survey results	9b	I am confident my organisation will act on the results of this survey	24%	-4		
Decision making and accountability	7e	People in my organisation take responsibility for their own actions	26%	-1		
Employee voice	6e	My senior executives listen to employees	26%	+1		

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Key drivers of engagement

The key driver analysis identifies questions with the strongest influence on your employees' engagement.

Key drivers are split into strengths (high correlation, high score) and priorities (high correlation, low score). Look for ways to maintain your strengths and improve your priorities.

Торіс	Eng	Engagement key driver questions		Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Action
Communication and change management	7p	p I am supported through changes that affect my work		31	29	39%	Improve
Other wellbeing	1q	I am struggling to maintain enthusiasm for my work (disagree)	40	22	38	40%	Improve
Wellbeing	7t	I am satisfied with current workplace practices to help me manage my wellbeing	52	22	27	52 %	Improve
Recognition	7m	I receive adequate recognition for my contributions from my organisation	37	31	32	37%	Improve
Ethics and values	7n	My organisation shows a commitment to ethical behaviours	54	2	3 23	54%	Improve
Ethics and values	6b	My senior executives model the values of my organisation	39	32	29	39%	Improve

Maintain (high correlation, high score) - Questions that have a high correlation with engagement and also have a high favourable score.

Improve (high correlation, low score) - Questions that have a high correlation with engagement but a low favourable score.

Monitor (low correlation, low score) - Questions that have a low correlation with engagement and a low favourable score.

Review (low correlation, high score) - Questions that have a low correlation with engagement but a high favourable score.

Manager

Managers are key in translating strategy into action, driving day-today performance, fostering engagement, and ensuring a safe, inclusive, and productive team environment.

This page shows all survey questions related to employees' managers, drawn from various thematic topics.

The term 'manager' refers to the person in the workgroup, team or project that the employee reports to.

Topic	Que	stions related to manager	Favourable Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Difference from Portfolio
Employee voice	5c	My manager encourages and values employee input	67	16 17	67%	-2	-8	-6
Flexible working	8h	My manager supports flexible working in my team	67	19 14	67%	0	-1	-3
Recognition	5f	My manager provides recognition for the work I do	65	17 18	65%	+1	-6	-5
Risk and innovation	5а	My manager encourages people in my workgroup to keep improving the work they do	64	20 16	64%	-3	-10	-9
Communication and change management	5b	My manager communicates effectively with me	64	17 20	64%	-1	-11	-9
Employee voice	5d	My manager involves my workgroup in decisions about our work	62	17 21	62%	0	-8	-6
Inclusion and diversity	5i	My manager supports my career advancement	60	24 16	60%	-	-6	-6
Job purpose and enrichment	5h	My manager communicates how my role contributes to my organisation's purpose	58	21 20	58%	-2	-10	-8

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Senior executives

Leadership is key in setting direction, executing strategy, shaping culture and capability, inspiring purpose, and delivering results.

The term 'senior executives' refers to the group of senior executives in your organisation, not an individual manager.

Topic	Ques	stions related to senior executives	Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Customer service	6d	My senior executives communicate the importance of customers in our work	52	2	27 21	52%	+3	-10	-9
Teamwork and collaboration	6c	My senior executives promote collaboration between my organisation and other organisations we work with	46	3.	1 23	46%	+3	-5	-5
Ethics and values	6b	My senior executives model the values of my organisation	39	32	29	39%	+2	-14	-13
Communication and change management	6a	My senior executives provide clear direction for the future of the organisation	35	34	31	35%	+4	-14	-11
Employee voice	6e	My senior executives listen to employees	26	33	41	26%	+1	-18	-15

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Results by topic

Discover more about your results

Employee engagement

Employee engagement is about a person's connection to their organisation. It is a global measure of employee experience.

Many factors influence engagement: leadership, a positive and inclusive work culture, wellbeing, manager support, accountability, and flexible work to name a few.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavour	able	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Employee engagement (total score)*						62	+1	-2	0
7i I am proud to tell others I work for my org	ganisation		72	19	10	72 %	+2	+5	+8
7j I feel a strong personal attachment to my	organisation	6	6	22	13	66%	-3	+7	+8
7h I would recommend my organisation as a work	great place to	48	3	31 2	21	48%	+5	-11	-7
7l My organisation inspires me to do the bes	st in my job	45	32	2 2	3	45%	0	-9	-5
7k My organisation motivates me to help it a	chieve its goals	44	32	2	5	44%	-1	-9	-6

^{*}The 'Additional information about the survey' section explains how the engagement score is calculated

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Job satisfaction

Like employee engagement, job satisfaction is a global measure of employee experience. While employee engagement operates at the organisational level, job satisfaction operates at the job or role level.

	Favourable	Neutral	Unfavoura	able	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Job satisfaction (total score)					65 %	+1	-5	-4
1g My job gives me a feeling of personal accomplishment		68	16	16	68%	+1	-4	-3
1h I am satisfied with my job	6	3	21	17	63%	+2	-5	-5

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Wellbeing - overall

Wellbeing means feeling good, functioning well, and experiencing satisfaction and fulfilment in work and life.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfa	vourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Wellk	peing (total score)					53 %	+2	-4	-5
7w	There are effective resources in my organisation to support employee wellbeing	63		20	17	63%	+2	+1	-2
7t	I am satisfied with current workplace practices to help me manage my wellbeing	52	2	2	27	52%	+3	-4	-5
11	In general, my sense of wellbeing is	50		34	16	50%	+3	-8	-8
1i	The amount of stress in my job is manageable	48	22		29	48%	0	-6	-6

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Other wellbeing questions

Wellbeing means feeling good, functioning well, and experiencing satisfaction and fulfilment in work and life.

1m I am able to adapt when changes occur	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Difference from Portfolio
Strongly disagree	0%	-1	-1	-1
Disagree	3%	-1	+1	+1
Neither agree nor disagree	10%	0	+1	0
Agree	65%	-1	0	-1
Strongly agree	22%	+3	-1	0
1n What best describes your current workload?				
Well above capacity - too much work	25%	-	+5	+6
Slightly above capacity - lots of work to do	37%	-	0	+2
At capacity - about the right amount of work to do	24%	-	-11	-12
Slightly below capacity - available for more work	10%	-	+3	+1
Well below capacity - not enough work	4%	-	+3	+3
1o I feel burned out by my work				
Strongly disagree	6%	0	-2	-2
Disagree	25%	0	-2	-5
Neither agree nor disagree	29%	+5	+1	+1
Agree	28%	-1	+2	+4
Strongly agree	12%	-4	+1	+2

Other wellbeing questions

The World Health Organisation has defined burnout as a syndrome resulting from chronic workplace stress which has not been properly managed.

These questions relate to the three dimensions of burnout: exhaustion, cynicism and reduced professional efficacy.

1p I feel mentally exhausted by my work on most days	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Difference from Portfolio
Strongly disagree	6%	-1	-2	-2
Disagree	25%	-5	-4	-5
Neither agree nor disagree	24%	+3	-1	-1
Agree	34%	+5	+6	+6
Strongly agree	12%	-2	0	+2
1q I am struggling to maintain enthusiasm for my work				
Strongly disagree	8%	0	-3	-3
Disagree	32%	+4	-2	-3
Neither agree nor disagree	22%	+2	0	+1
Agree	26%	-2	+4	+5
Strongly agree	12%	-3	+1	+1
1r I feel I am not as effective in my role as I used to be				
Strongly disagree	13%	+2	-1	-2
Disagree	32%	-2	-6	-6
Neither agree nor disagree	21%	0	0	+1
Agree	23%	+1	+4	+5
Strongly agree	11%	-1	+2	+2
% respondents who experienced all three dimensions of burnout	19%	-3	+2	+3

Customer service

Customer means the people who you or your organisation provide a service to.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Custo	omer service (total score)				56%	-1	-9	-5
2c	My workgroup considers customer needs when planning our work	7-	4	15 11	74%	-3	-5	-2
7g	My organisation meets the needs of the communities, people, and/or businesses of NSW	65		23 12	65%	-1	+1	+4
6d	My senior executives communicate the importance of customers in our work	52		27 21	52%	+3	-10	-9
7f	The processes in my organisation are designed to support the best experience for customers	34	36	30	34%	-2	-23	-15

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Role clarity and support

Purpose and direction

An employee has role clarity when they understand their goals, how to achieve these goals, and how the goals link to broader strategy.

Employees also need the right support to deliver what is expected in their role such as time to do their job well, tools and technology, and training.

	Favourable No	eutral Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Difference from Portfolio
Role clarity and support (total score)			59%	+2	-9	-8
1a I understand what is expected of me to do well in my job	73	13 14	73%	+2	-12	-10
1c I have the tools and technology to do my job well	63	14 23	63%	+3	-6	-4
1b I get the support I need to do my job well	53	21 26	53%	-1	-12	-10
1d I have the time to do my job well	47	18 35	47%	+3	-7	-7

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Job purpose and enrichment

Purpose and direction

In addition to role clarity and support, employees are likely to feel more satisfied with their job when there is a clear sense of purpose and when it is enriched with characteristics such as skill variety, autonomy, and feedback.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Job p	urpose and enrichment (total score)				70%	0	-4	-3
1e	My job gives me opportunities to use a variety of skills		77	11 12	77%	+3	-3	-2
1f	I have a choice in deciding how I carry out day to day work tasks		73	14 13	73%	0	+1	+1
5h	My manager communicates how my role contributes to my organisation's purpose	58	8	21 20	58%	-2	-10	-8

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Risk and innovation

Purpose and direction

Risk refers to the effect of uncertainty in achieving work goals and organisational objectives. Workplace risks can have negative or positive effects on your objectives.

Innovation means creating new and better products, processes services, and technologies to improve outcomes for the people of NSW.

A healthy risk appetite can help foster innovation.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Difference from Portfolio
Risk a	and innovation (total score)				65 %	0	-5	-3
1k	I know how to manage risks related to my role		80	13 7	80%	+2	-3	-3
5a	My manager encourages people in my workgroup to keep improving the work they do	6	4	20 16	64%	-3	-10	-9
7a	My organisation is making improvements to meet future challenges	50	2	26 24	50%	0	-3	+2

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Ethics and values

Purpose and direction

Ethics refer to the standards for morally right and wrong conduct. Ethical behaviours means behaving in ways that are ethical, lawful, build trust, and demonstrate the sector's core values.

Values are beliefs that guide and motivate attitudes and actions. An organisation's values are a set of guiding beliefs upon which the organisation is based. They help people function together as one and shape the way employees should operate and achieve outcomes.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Ethics	s and values (total score)				76 %	0	-5	-4
7v	I am aware of my obligations under the Code of Ethics and Conduct in my organisation		96		96%	0	+1	0
7r	I understand what ethical behaviour means within my workplace		94		94%	0	0	-1
70	I support my organisation's values		90	8	90%	0	+2	+2
7s	I would know how to report unethical behaviour if I became aware of it		87	7	87%	-1	-2	-2
7n	My organisation shows a commitment to ethical behaviours	54		23 23	54%	-4	-17	-13
6b	My senior executives model the values of my organisation	39	32	29	39%	+2	-14	-13

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Teamwork and collaboration

Work environment

Delivering for the people of NSW requires agencies to work together and share knowledge internally and with other sectors.

Well executed collaboration enables agencies to share knowledge ideas, resources, skills, networks, and assets, leading to better outcomes for customers.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Team	work and collaboration (total score)				52 %	0	-9	-8
2a	My workgroup works collaboratively to achieve its goals	6	9	14 17	69%	-3	-7	-6
6c	My senior executives promote collaboration between my organisation and other organisations we work with	46	3	1 23	46%	+3	-5	-5
7d	There is good co-operation between teams across my organisation	39	24	36	39%	-1	-16	-13

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Inclusion and diversity

Work environment

An inclusive workplace is one where all employees can participate and contribute. It is one where everyone feels valued, accepted, and supported to thrive at work.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavo	ourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Inclus	sion and diversity (total score)					62 %	-	-9	-7
2b	People in my workgroup treat each other with respect		69	13	18	69%	-3	-9	-9
8c	I feel culturally safe at work	(65	22	12	65%	-2	-11	-7
5i	My manager supports my career advancement	6	0	24	16	60%	-	-6	-6
8d	If I chose to, I would feel safe sharing personal aspects about myself at work	58	3	21	21	58%	+1	-10	-6
8b	I feel that I belong in my organisation	58	3	27	15	58%	-1	-9	-7

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Flexible working

Work environment

Flexible working is about rethinking where, when, and how people work, in ways that maintain or improve service delivery for the people of NSW.

	Favourable	Neutral	Unfavo	ourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Flexible working (total score)					63%	+1	-1	-4
8h My manager supports flexible working in my team		67	19	14	67%	0	-1	-3
How satisfied are you with your ability to access and use flexible working arrangements?	59	9	21	20	59%	+1	-2	-4

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Use of flexible working

Work environment

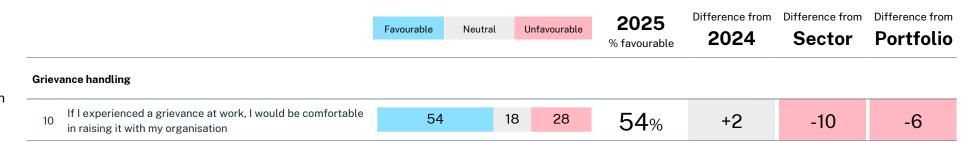
Flexible working is about rethinking where, when, and how people work, in ways that maintain or improve service delivery for the people of NSW.

8f Type of flexible working	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Flexible start and finish times	63%	+1	+19	+7
Working from home	50%	+5	+8	-4
Working from different locations	33%	0	+13	+8
Working additional hours to make up for time off	23%	0	+5	+6
I did not use any flexible working arrangements	22%	0	-6	-3
Working more hours over fewer days	10%	+1	+1	0
Flexible scheduling for rostered workers	5%	-1	-2	-3
Leave without pay	4%	-1	-5	-1
Part-time work	3%	-1	-10	-5
Other	3%	0	0	0
Job sharing	2%	0	-1	0
Study leave	r	-	-	_
Purchasing annual leave	r	_	-	-

Grievance handling

Work environment

A grievance is any type of problem, concern, dispute, or complaint related to work or the work environment which cannot be resolved through usual communication.



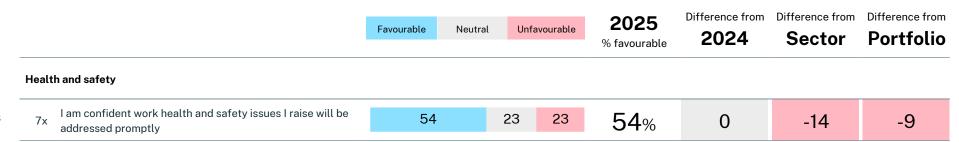
Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Health and safety

Work environment

Work health and safety (WHS) involves the management of risks to the health and safety of everyone in your workplace. Health refers to both physical and psychological health.



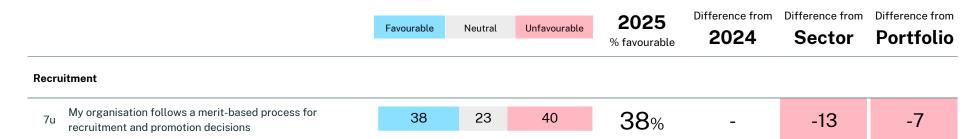
Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Recruitment

Enabling practices

Recruitment refers to the process of attracting, screening, and onboarding people.



Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Learning and development

Enabling practices

Access to learning and development programs helps employees achieve their performance and career goals. Learning and development also help agencies to grow the right employee capabilities to deliver business outcomes.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Learn	ning and development (total score)				46%	0	-14	-11
1j	I have the opportunity to develop the skills that I need to do my job well	55	2	21 25	55%	0	-12	-9
3f	I have received the training and development I need to do my job well	45	27	29	45%	0	-19	-14
3g	I am satisfied with the opportunities available for professional development in my organisation	37	24	39	37%	-2	-13	-9

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Mobility

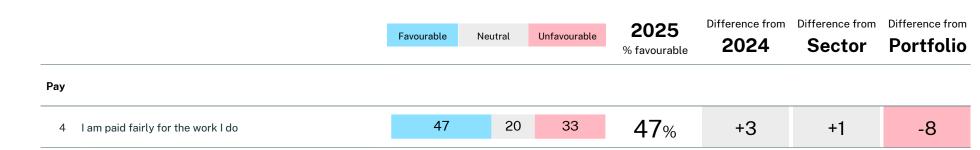
Enabling practices

Having a mobile workforce makes it easier to redeploy resources to match priorities and respond to emerging issues.

Mobility is regarded as one of the best ways to develop leadership capability, provide enriching careers, and build and retain 'know how' in an organisation and the NSW public sector more broadly.

3h Are there barriers preventing you from moving to another role? If so, what are they?	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Geographic location considerations	48%	-3	+25	+17
Personal / family considerations	45%	-4	+18	+14
Lack of promotion opportunities	39%	+4	+6	+6
Lack of visible opportunities	37%	+5	+6	+6
The application / recruitment process is too cumbersome or time consuming	26%	-2	+5	+2
Insufficient training and development	26%	+2	+11	+8
Lack of support for temporary assignments / secondments	22%	-1	+6	+2
Lack of required capabilities or experience	16%	0	+5	+4
Lack of support from my manager / supervisor	16%	0	+4	+1
There are no major barriers to my career progression	15%	+1	-13	-9
Other	12%	+3	+2	+1

Pay Enabling practices



Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Recognition

Enabling practices

Recognition involves recognising employees' contributions and achievements in the workplace through formal and informal channels.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Recog	gnition (total score)				51%	+1	-9	-8
5f	My manager provides recognition for the work I do	65		17 18	65%	+1	-6	-5
7m	I receive adequate recognition for my contributions from my organisation	37	31	32	37%	0	-13	-10

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Feedback and performance management

Enabling practices

Underpinning a high performance culture is an effective system for managing individual, team, and organisational performance.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Difference from Portfolio
Feedl	pack and performance management (total score)				44%	-	-16	-11
3d	In the last 12 months, I have received feedback to help me improve my work	51	22	2 27	51%	-2	-13	-9
5g	I am confident my manager would appropriately deal with employees who perform poorly	48	19	33	48%	-	-14	-11
3e	My performance is assessed against clear criteria	34	31	35	34%	-5	-20	-14

Perfo	rmance management process	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
3a	I have a performance and development plan that sets out my individual goals	57%	0	-19	-3
3b	I have informal feedback conversations with my manager	70%	0	-9	-6
3c	I have scheduled feedback conversations with my manager	45%	-2	-22	-13

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Decision making and accountability

Leadership

Decision making is the process of making choices by identifying a decision, gathering information, and assessing alternative resolutions.

Accountability is one of the four core NSW public sector values. It is about taking responsibility for decisions and actions. Accountability can add meaning to work and foster engagement.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Decis	ion making and accountability (total score)				45 %	-1	-15	-11
5e	I have confidence in the decisions my manager makes	63		18 19	63%	-1	-8	-7
7e	People in my organisation take responsibility for their own actions	26	31	43	26%	-1	-23	-15

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

People Matter Employee Survey HAVE YOUR SAY

Communication and change management

Leadership

Effective communication is proactive and timely and focuses on the most important points. What do employees need to know and how does it affect them?

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Comn	nunication and change management (total score)				39%	+2	-15	-11
5b	My manager communicates effectively with me	64		17 20	64%	-1	-11	-9
7q	I have the opportunity to provide feedback on change processes that directly affect me	43	25	32	43%	+4	-14	-8
7p	I am supported through changes that affect my work	39	31	29	39%	+1	-16	-12
6a	My senior executives provide clear direction for the future of the organisation	35	34	31	35%	+4	-14	-11
7b	Change is managed well in my organisation	15 28		57	15%	0	-21	-14

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Employee voice

Leadership

Ensuring employees feel like they can share a different view to others and be heard shifts the employee-employer relationship from a transactional one to an effective, dynamic one.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfav	ourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Empl	oyee voice (total score)					54%	-1	-9	-8
5c	My manager encourages and values employee input		67	16	17	67%	-2	-8	-6
5d	My manager involves my workgroup in decisions about our work		62	17	21	62%	0	-8	-6
8a	I am comfortable sharing a different view to others in my organisation		61	17	22	61%	-4	-5	-4
6e	My senior executives listen to employees	26	33	4	1	26%	+1	-18	-15

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

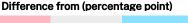
Negative workplace behaviours

In NSW public sector, we are committed to reducing and preventing negative workplace behaviours such as misconduct, bullying, sexual harassment, threats or physical harm, discrimination, and racism.

In the last 12 months, have you	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
been aware of any misconduct in your organisation	32%	+2	+18	+13
witnessed bullying	33%	0	+14	+13
experienced bullying	23%	+1	+10	+9
witnessed sexual harassment	6%	+1	+4	+3
experienced sexual harassment	6%	-2	+2	+2
experienced threats or physical harm	2%	0	0	+1
witnessed discrimination	15%	-3	+7	+5
experienced discrimination	12%	-3	+6	+5
witnessed racism	6%	-1	0	0
experienced racism	3%	0	0	0

Definitions

- Misconduct: behaviour that is unethical, illegal, corrupt, or that breaches your organisation's code of conduct
- Bullying: repeated unreasonable behaviour directed towards a worker or group of workers
- Sexual harassment: unwelcome behaviour of a sexual nature that would offend, humiliate or intimidate someone
- Discrimination: when a person, or a group of people, is treated less favourably than another person or group because of their background or certain personal characteristics
- Racism: prejudice, discrimination or hatred directed at someone because of their colour, ethnicity or national origin



+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Action on survey results

Leadership

To improve employee experience, leaders at all levels should take on board employee feedback and act on the survey results.

Employees can become disengaged if they are asked their opinion and then no action takes place as a result.

		Favourable	Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Actio	n on survey results (total score)				21%	-	-14	-12
9b	I am confident my organisation will act on the results of this survey	24	33	42	24%	-4	-14	-11
9а	My organisation has made improvements based on the survey results from last year	17	47	36	17%	-	-14	-14

Difference from (percentage point)

+5 or more +4 to -4 -5 or less

Intention to stay

Intention to stay refers to an employee's desire and willingness to remain with their current organisation. Intention to stay can be influenced by many aspects of employee experience, including engagement.

Intention to stay is a leading indicator for turnover. However, intention doesn't always translate into action.

k How long do you think you will continue to work in your current organisation?	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Difference from Sector	Portfolio
Less than 1 year	9%	-4	+2	+3
1 year to less than 2 years	11%	0	+2	+4
2 years to less than 5 years	19%	+1	0	+2
5 years to less than 10 years	24%	+2	-2	-1
10 years to less than 20 years	22%	+2	-2	-5
More than 20 years	15%	-2	0	-3
l What best describes your plans involved with leaving your current organisation?				
I am planning to retire	11%	+3	-4	-2
I am applying for/intend to apply for new roles in another NSW public sector organisation	38%	-2	+8	0
I am applying for/intend to apply for roles in the private sector	25%	0	+9	+9
I am applying for/intend to apply for new roles in the not for profit / community sector	r	-	_	-
It is the end of my non-ongoing, casual or contracted employment	r	-	-	-
Other	19%	+1	-8	-4

Intention to stay

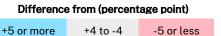
Intention to stay refers to an employee's desire and willingness to remain with their current organisation. Intention to stay can be influenced by many aspects of employee experience, including engagement.

Intention to stay is a leading indicator for turnover. However, intention doesn't always translate into action.

21m What is the primary reason behind your desire to leave your current organisati	• •	2025 respondents	Difference from 2024	Sector	Portfolio
Senior leadership is of a poor quality		38%	-6	+12	+8
There are a lack of future career opportunities in my organisation		29%	-4	-6	-6
My immediate supervisor's leadership is of a poor quality		28%	+8	+12	+11
I am expected to do more work than I reasonably can		27 %	+10	+9	+5
I am emotionally exhausted		24%	+13	+5	+3

Communities and Justice questions

	Favourable Neutral	Unfavourable	2025 % favourable	Difference from 2024	Difference from Portfolio
Communities and Justice questions					
I understand how my work links to the strategic outcomes in my organisation	74	17 10	74%	+3	-5
I am equipped to provide advice and service that helps empower the people to whom we deliver our services	71	20 9	71%	+2	-6
My manager communicates the importance of the people to whom we provide a service in achieving our objectives	69	19 12	69%	+2	-7
My manager is committed to, and supportive of, diverse workgroups	68	22 10	68%	-1	-9
Our workplace respects different cultures and adapts its services accordingly	64	28 8	64%	0	-11
My manager demonstrates commitment to meeting the needs of employees with disability that require a workplace adjustment	62	30 8	62%	+2	-9
All things considered, I feel my organisation provides good support for my mental health and well-being	55	23 22	55%	+2	-5



Communities and Justice questions

What is your role?	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Portfolio
Administration	13%	-1	+1
Business Enabler (Legal, IT, Finance, HR, Procurement, Training & other corporate services)	14%	+4	+5
Custodial Officer	r	-	-
Youth Worker	r	-	-
Sheriff's Officer	r	-	-
Community Corrections Officer	r	-	-
Caseworker - Child Protection & Permanency	r	-	-
Community Worker	r	-	-
Caseworker - Helpline	r	-	-
Contact Centre Operator	r	-	-
Contact Centre Manager	r	-	-
Casework Support Worker	r	-	-
Casework Specialist	r	-	-

Communities and Justice questions

What is your role?	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Difference from Portfolio
Manager Child Protection & Permanency (inc Districts, OSP, CSSS)	r	-	-
Permanency Co-ordinator	r	-	-
Asset or Property Management	1%	0	0
Client Liaison Officer / Client Service Officer (field and HCC)	r	-	-
Housing Manager / Housing Team Leader	r	-	-
Disability Case Manager	r	-	-
Registered Nurse / Enrolled Nurse / Assistant in Nursing (AIN)	r	-	-
Legal officer or other legal professional (Legal support,Paralegal)	r	-	-
Policy/Program/Project/Research Officer	5%	0	-2
Policy/Program/Project/Research Manager	1 %	r	-1
Analyst	2%	0	0
Analyst Manager	r	_	-
Psychologist	r	-	-

Communities and Justice questions

What is your role?	2025 % respondents	Difference from 2024	Portfolio
Teacher	r	-	-
Senior Manager	3%	0	0
Senior Executive Band 1	1%	r	0
Senior Executive Band 2 and 3	r	-	-
Permanent Fire fighter	7%	-1	+3
Retained Fire fighter	r	-	-
Tradesperson (e.g. engineer, mechanic, technician)	1%	0	+1
NSW SES Zone Commander/Deputy Zone Commander	r	-	-
Guardian	r	-	-
Client Service Officer (EM and EP&A)	r	_	-
Other	50%	-1	+35

Results by child unit and demographic group

Discover if employees in different groups have different views

Respondent profile

This section provides a snapshot of survey respondents. Use it to assess whether the respondent group reflects your broader organisation or team.

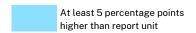
Gender	% respondents
Woman or female	30
Man or male	57
Non-binary	r
Use a different term	r
Prefer not to answer	r
Age	
15-34 years	20
35-54 years	46
55+ years	17
Prefer not to answer	17
Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander	
Yes	4
No	83
Prefer not to answer	13
LOTE spoken at home	
Yes	11
No	82
Prefer not to answer	7
Cultural minority	
Yes	7
No	80
Prefer not to answer	13
Disability	
Yes	12
No	80
Prefer not to answer	8

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Selected key topic results by child unit

This shows some key topic scores for the organisational units that sit one level below the report unit. These units are called child units.

	Report total	Field Operations	Office of the Commissioner	Operational Coordination	People & Corporate Services	Strategic Capability
Employee engagement	62	58	70	67	65	68
Wellbeing	53%	48%	63%	59%	58%	63%
Role clarity and support	59%	54%	73%	67%	61%	65%
Inclusion and diversity	62%	58%	71%	65%	65%	73%
Teamwork and collaboration	52%	48%	61%	59%	54%	56%
Learning and development	46%	42%	47%	51%	54%	49%
Communication and change management	39%	34%	45%	47%	50%	46%
Employee voice	54%	49%	67%	59%	60%	66%



Within 5 percentage points of the report unit

At least 5 percentage points lower than report unit

Selected key topic results by select demographics

	Report total	Woman or female	Man or male	Non-binary	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	People with disability	People who identify as LGBTIQA+	People who speak a language other than English	15-34 years	35-54 years	55+ years	Caring responsibilities*	Cultural minority
Employee engagement	62	66	62	r	61	54	r	69	62	65	63	62	70
Wellbeing	53%	59%	53%	r	48%	38%	r	63%	54%	55%	58%	53%	67%
Role clarity and support	59%	64%	59%	r	61%	50%	r	69%	61%	61%	62%	59%	68%
Inclusion and diversity	62%	66%	63%	r	62%	48%	r	66%	61%	68%	64%	64%	69%
Teamwork and collaboration	52%	57%	52%	r	58%	39%	r	60%	51%	56%	55%	51%	63%
Learning and development	46%	53%	45%	r	45%	35%	r	49%	48%	47%	52%	45%	56%
Communication and change management	39%	43%	40%	r	39%	26%	r	51%	38%	42%	44%	39%	50%
Employee voice	54%	61%	54%	r	60%	42%	r	60%	54%	59%	58%	55%	61%

At least 5 percentage points higher than report unit

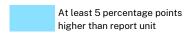
Within 5 percentage points of the report unit

At least 5 percentage points lower than report unit

^{*} See interpretation guide for the definition of who is included in this group

Selected key topic results by type of work

	Report total	Frontline	Non-frontline	Service delivery involving direct contact with the public	Other service delivery work	Administrative support	Corporate services	Policy	Research	Program and project management support	Legal (including developing and/or reviewing legislation)	Other
Employee engagement	62	57	65	57	63	72	65	r	r	68	r	61
Wellbeing	53%	45%	58%	45%	55%	70%	59%	r	r	68%	r	51%
Role clarity and support	59%	51%	64%	51%	60%	70%	66%	r	r	66%	r	60%
Inclusion and diversity	62%	56%	67%	56%	65%	68%	72%	r	r	74%	r	61%
Teamwork and collaboration	52%	48%	55%	48%	52%	61%	56%	r	r	56%	r	50%
Learning and development	46%	41%	48%	41%	47%	51%	49%	r	r	52%	r	45%
Communication and change management	39%	33%	43%	33%	40%	52%	48%	r	r	47%	r	37%
Employee voice	54%	47%	60%	47%	57%	64%	67%	r	r	66%	r	52%

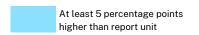


Within 5 percentage points of the report unit

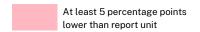
At least 5 percentage points lower than report unit

Selected key topic results by organisation tenure

	Report total	Less than 1 year	1 year to less than 2 years	2 years to less than 5 years	5 years to less than 10 years	10 years to less than 20 years	More than 20 years
Employee engagement	62	72	63	63	59	58	62
Wellbeing	53%	72%	61%	55%	48%	46%	48%
Role clarity and support	59%	74%	66%	59%	56%	53%	56%
Inclusion and diversity	62%	72%	61%	63%	59%	60%	64%
Teamwork and collaboration	52%	64%	57%	51%	50%	46%	56%
Learning and development	46%	61%	49%	45%	39%	41%	52%
Communication and change management	39%	56%	46%	39%	35%	33%	39%
Employee voice	54%	69%	54%	54%	53%	50%	59%

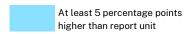


Within 5 percentage points of the report unit

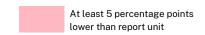


Selected key topic results by geographic region (continued)

	Report total	Metro	Regional	Sydney East	Sydney West	Capital Region	Central Coast	Central West	Coffs Harbour - Grafton	Far West and Orana	Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle
Employee engagement	62	66	62	61	67	61	54	65	54	65	59
Wellbeing	53%	59%	54%	52%	60%	43%	63%	58%	46%	56%	38%
Role clarity and support	59%	63%	61%	59%	64%	60%	71%	60%	54%	51%	58%
Inclusion and diversity	62%	67%	64%	59%	68%	60%	66%	68%	50%	60%	57%
Teamwork and collaboration	52%	56%	54%	50%	57%	49%	49%	52%	43%	56%	49%
Learning and development	46%	47%	49%	40%	48%	41%	58%	47%	37%	49%	40%
Communication and change management	39%	45%	39%	43%	45%	40%	35%	40%	29%	34%	37%
Employee voice	54%	59%	55%	56%	60%	58%	53%	59%	36%	59%	50%

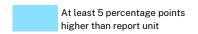


Within 5 percentage points of the report unit



Selected key topic results by geographic region

	Report total	Illawarra	Mid North Coast	Murray	New England and North West	Newcastle and Lake Macquarie	Richmond - Tweed	Riverina	Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven	Outside of NSW
Employee engagement	62	r	65	65	65	r	76	60	59	r
Wellbeing	53%	r	57%	65%	60%	r	75%	57%	39%	r
Role clarity and support	59%	r	61%	72%	65%	r	78%	58%	52%	r
Inclusion and diversity	62%	r	63%	76%	70%	r	80%	68%	58%	r
Teamwork and collaboration	52%	r	56%	73%	61%	r	67%	58%	35%	r
Learning and development	46%	r	55%	62%	48%	r	77%	53%	48%	r
Communication and change management	39%	r	38%	52%	41%	r	60%	45%	30%	r
Employee voice	54%	r	51%	68%	54%	r	73%	61%	50%	r



Within 5 percentage points of the report unit

At least 5 percentage points lower than report unit

Additional information about the survey

Discover more about how the survey works and how to act on results

Survey model

The People Matter Employee Survey provides an important opportunity for more than 400,000 people to have a say about their workplace and to help make the public sector a better place to work.

The survey asks employees about their experiences with their work, workgroup, managers, and organisation. Their experiences are grouped into management practices and reported under 4 domains:

- · Purpose and direction
- Work environment
- Enabling practices
- Leadership

All of these practices positively contribute towards employee and organisational outcomes, including employee engagement, job satisfaction, wellbeing, and customer service.

Purpose and direction	Work environment	Enabling practices	Leadership	Outcomes
Role clarity and support	Teamwork and collaboration	Recruitment	Decision making and accountability	Employee engagement
Job purpose and enrichment	Inclusion and diversity	Learning and development	Communication and change management	Job satisfaction
Risk and innovation	Flexible working	Pay	Employee voice	Wellbeing
Ethics and values	Grievance handling	Recognition	Action on survey results	Customer service
	Health and safety	Feedback and performance management		

Interpretation guide

Privacy

Responses from individual employees are confidential. Strict rules protect privacy at every stage of the survey process. These reports only show the results for a group of employees (i.e. a workgroup or demographic group) when there are 10 or more responses for the group.

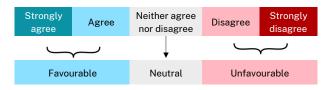
Headline Results - Key topics

Due to changes in the survey questions some topics do not have a comparison to the previous year. Where a comparison is available, the change is displayed in the box.

To improve clarity, survey questions that previously sat under multiple topics have now been assigned to a single, most relevant thematic topic. As a result, previous years' topic scores have been recalculated and may differ slightly from past reports.

% favourable calculation

Most scores are shown as % favourable, which is the sum of the 'strongly agree' and 'agree' percentages.



% favourable scores are colour coded based on these ranges:



Rounding

Results are presented as whole numbers for ease of reading. Values are rounded down if their first decimal number is less than 5. Values are rounded up if their first decimal number is equal to or greater than 5. Due to rounding, results will not always add up to 100%. Difference scores may appear to be slightly different to values derived from subtracting rounded numbers, usually within 1%.

Methodology - Burnout questions (disagree)

Burnout (disagree) questions are reported using a 5-point Likert scale from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'. For negatively framed questions, lower scores ('strongly disagree' and 'disagree') indicate more favourable responses (less burnout), while higher scores ('agree' and 'strongly agree') indicate less favourable scores (more burnout). To interpret the results, the further responses are towards 'strongly disagree', the less burnout is reported; the further towards 'strongly agree', the more burnout is reported.

Employee engagement score calculation

Each person who answered all five employee engagement questions gets an employee engagement score. Each answer is assigned a score as follows:

100 to 'strongly agree'

75 to 'agree'

50 to 'neither agree nor disagree'

25 to 'disagree'

0 to 'strongly disagree'

The employee's engagement score is calculated as the average of the 5 question scores. Employees' scores are then averaged to calculate a team or organisation engagement score.

Difference scores

Difference scores are displayed as a percentage point where available. Differences are colour coded based on these ranges:



A '-' represents there is no applicable comparison available.

Sector: The NSW public sector as a whole, including all NSW Government employees who participated in the survey.

Portfolio: NSW Government departments and organisations are grouped into 12 portfolios. See cover page for details.

Interpretation guide

Key driver analysis

Key drivers are split into strengths (high correlation, high score) and priorities (high correlation, low score). We recommend looking for ways to maintain your strengths and improve your priority areas.

Experience tells us that a successful response to survey results requires focus on key priorities. The key driver analysis, which uses statistical techniques including Pearson's correlation analysis, identifies individual questions with the strongest influence on your employee engagement score.

Metro and Regional

The survey collects suburb and postcode data which is mapped to the Statistical Areas 4 (SA4) geographical from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) geographical framework. They are the largest sub-state regions in the Australian Statistical Geography Standard.

Metro includes all Sydney SA4s and is divided into Sydney East and Sydney West.

Sydney East includes Sydney - City and Inner South, Sydney - Eastern Suburbs, Sydney - Inner South West, Sydney - Inner West, Sydney - North Sydney and Hornsby, Sydney - Northern Beaches, Sydney - Ryde and Sydney - Sutherland SA4s.

Sydney West includes Sydney – Baulkham Hills and Hawkesbury, Sydney – Blacktown, Sydney – Outer South West, Sydney – Outer West and Blue Mountains, Sydney – Parramatta and Sydney – South West SA4s.

Regional includes Capital Region; Central Coast; Central West; Coffs Harbour–Grafton, Far West and Orana; Hunter Valley excluding Newcastle; Illawarra; Mid North Coast; Murray; New England and North West; Newcastle and Lake Macquarie; Richmond – Tweed; Riverina; and Southern Highlands and Shoalhaven SA4s.

Frontline and Non-frontline

Frontline roles are those where employees spend at least 70% of their time delivering services directly to members of the public. In the PMES, frontline and non-frontline status is determined by responses to the question: "Which of the following best describes the work you do?"

Frontline is defined as 'Service delivery involving direct contact with the public (e.g., teaching, nursing, policing, shopfront / counter service, train driver, customer service)'.

Non-frontline includes all other types of work:

- Other service delivery work (work that does not involve contact with the public, but it is critical to the delivery of a service, e.g., maintenance, technical support catering, cleaning, laundry)
- Administrative support (e.g., executive / personal assistant, receptionist)
- Corporate services (e.g., HR, finance, IT, ministerial or parliamentary processes)
- Policy
- Research
- Program and project management support
- Legal (including developing and/or reviewing legislation) or
- Other

Caring responsibilities

These are employees who selected at least one of the below options from the question; 'Do you have caring responsibilities outside of work?'

- Yes, for a child
- Yes, for a child who needs support due to disability, chronic illness, mental illness or other circumstances
- Yes, for an adult who needs support due to disability, chronic illness, mental illness, dementia, frail age or other circumstances

Action planning

We are all responsible for building a world class public service. Improving employee experience is one way to work towards this goal.

Survey communication and action planning: Leaders are encouraged to share and discuss survey results with employees, and start thinking about actions using the template below. In addition to PMES results, you should consider work context and internal business data (e.g. turnover data). You should implement and monitor your plan, either on its own or as part of a broader organisational improvement strategy.

CELEBRATE	9	INVESTIGATE FURTHER WITH OUR TEAMS		4	OPPORTUNITIES
The things we do well:	1 1	ny other opportunities coming out of the we want to explore further?	A	reas we need to focu	s on and turn into action plans:
			-		
			-		
Think about how we can build on our strengths a what we are good at.	1 1	investigate? Through looking at the data in in through discussions with staff?		hat are the key things were better?	e need to improve to make working

PRIORITISE 3 AREAS FOR ACTION	TIMESCALES	OWNER	RESOURCES REQUIRED	TARGET / SUCCESS MEASURE
01.				
02.				
03.				