

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Australian Public Service Commission

Topic: Hot Desking and Activity Based Work Arrangements

Senator: Katy Gallagher

Type of question: Written

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 17 July 2020

Question:

1. Further to its circular 2020/5 on transitioning back to a safe workspace, has the APSC provided any guidance to agencies about the safety of activity based working and/or hotdesking during the COVID-19 pandemic?
2. Is the APSC aware of any agencies which are currently using hotdesking or activity based working arrangements? If so, please provide a list of these agencies.

Answer:

The APSC (Circular 2020/5) provided guidance to Australian Public Service agencies on what to consider when supporting their employees back to their usual workplaces. Agencies that have activity based working and/or hotdesking arrangements are also expected to take into account this guidance.

Each agency will have different working environments and their transition plans will need to be tailored to their particular circumstances.

Circular 2020/5 refers agencies to the current advice from the Department of Health, Safe Work Australia, Comcare, and State and Territory authorities in developing and implementing COVID-safe transition plans and working arrangements. All agencies are responsible for following this safety advice.