

Could a focus on wellbeing be a 'course corrector' for workplace gender equality initiatives?

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## Women's Wellbeing in Australia

- 1 in 5 Australians have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace in the last five years: 41% women, 26% men.\*
- Women are more likely to experience high or very high levels of psychological stress than men (19% vs. 12% for males)
- Women experience higher rates of anxiety (21% compared to 12% males), affective disorders, such as depression, bipolar, dysthymia (8.5% compared to 6% males), social phobia (9.8% compared to 4.3%) and PTSD (9.8 vs. 4.3%)
- Although men are more likely to die by suicide, women are 2-3 times more likely to end up hospitalized for **intentional self-harm** (with or without suicidal intent).\*\*

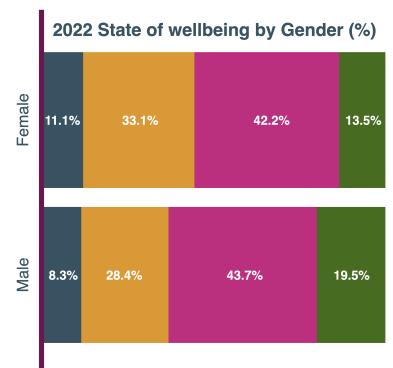
\*https://humanrights.gov.au/time-for-respect-2022
Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021
\*\*https://www.aihw.gov.au/suicide-self-harm-monitoring/data/deaths-by-suicide-in-australia/suicide-deaths-over-time





# **Workplace Wellbeing**

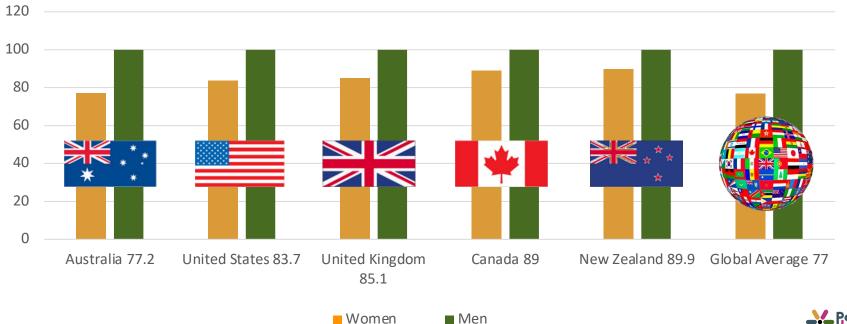
- Consistently thriving 19.5% men
- Living well despite struggles
   42.2% women; 43.7% men
- Not feeling bad, just getting by 33.1% of women
- Really struggling 11.1% women







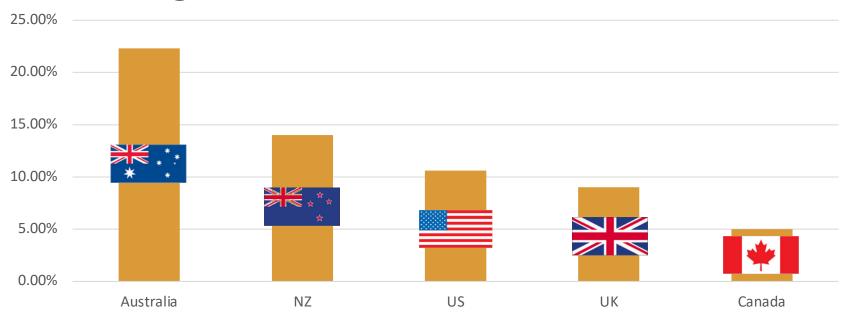
## **Gender Pay Gap 2023**







## **Percentage of Women CEOs 2022**





# The narrative for working women

#### Be:

- Confident (but not a b!tch)
- Assertive (but not aggressive)
- Gritty and resilient (but not too hard)
- To the point stop over-thinking (but be able to explain and defend your assertions)
- Fit and physically healthy (preferably thin but don't neglect your family or work in doing so)
- Mentally well (see top three buts)
- Good parents, partners, friends, colleagues

Oh, and be kind to yourself! Do some 'self-care' (but not at the expense of others).



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#### Wellbeing

- · Start with big guestions:
  - How do we define Thriving in our organization?
  - What does a Thriving organization look, feel and sound like? What is happening?
  - What can we learn from our teams that are already Thriving
- Wellbeing literacy understanding wellbeing beyond healthy snacks, gym memberships; good citizenship awards and EAPs.
- Evidence-based wellbeing approaches
  - Strengths (individual & Team)
  - · PERMAH, SDT, Self-efficacy
  - · Broaden & Build Theory & resilience
  - · Hope, Optimism, Goal-setting
  - Coaching: 1:1; small group; large group
  - Peer-support & relationship development – the WE





### Sarah

- Lawyer, mid-40s; married with 4 kids primary caregiver
- Top VIA strengths: Humility, Kindness,
   Appreciation of Beauty & Excellence, Judgment, Fairness.
- Self-described:
  - Not partner material;
  - Busy and exhausted, BUT wanting something more from her career
  - Wants to be a role model for her children
- Boss-described:
  - A national expert in her field would hate to lose her
  - Lacking in confidence





## **Top 5 Tips**

- 1. Start with Wellbeing
- 2. Build Wellbeing Literacy
- 3. Relationships
- 4. Meaning and Mattering
- 5. Support and amplify each other(s) ideas, voice,









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## Thank you & Questions

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