



Returning to the office post COVID-19.

New research on how Australian workers feel about the risk of COVID-19 in the workplace.

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Australian workers say employers are doing their bit to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

Since the nationwide shift to flexible working in March, Winc has been collecting information from organisations around the country to track the impact of COVID-19 on the workplace.

In the first few months of the pandemic, 40% of those who were working from home said they preferred it to stay that way and 20% said that they missed 'nothing' about the office.

That was then. This is now. Findings from our latest research show the tide has turned. While 35% of Australian workers still have some level of concern about the risk of exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace as of September 2020, the majority (56%) think that workplaces are doing enough to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

These findings suggest that employers are successful in ensuring employees feel comfortable as they return to the office. This growing level of confidence is good news for those industries which depend on employees working on-site or where prolonged remote working is negatively impacting productivity or profitability.

Industry segments where workers have the **highest levels** of confidence:

60%

Education

56%

Aged care, Healthcare and Early Learning

Industry segments where workers have the **lowest levels** of confidence:

43%

Industrial

38%

Government

35%

Professional Services

Continuing to build the confidence to return.

As we move towards 2021, and look to restore Australia's economy, it's important to get workplaces across the country humming again when it's safe to do so.

It is well understood that the nation's offices play a pivotal role for economic growth and that having people working on-site is essential to creating thriving CBDs. In many cases, on-site workplaces support their surrounding local businesses, who employ countless Australian workers¹.

For many organisations, working together as a team in a physical environment provides greater opportunity for collaboration and problem-solving, the development of workplace culture and increased productivity. A recent survey shows 83% of respondents expect generating new sales pipeline will become more challenging the longer remote working is enforced or encouraged².

To encourage workers to return to work part or full-time when it is safe to do so, organisations need to demonstrate to staff that safety and hygiene is a top priority. This is key to building confidence and maintaining peace of mind.

1. **Create a COVID-safe plan** – visit your state government website to understand the requirements to provide a COVID-safe business.
2. **Up your cleaning schedule** – learn the difference between cleaning and disinfecting and ensure you use efficient practices for both.
3. **Invest in hygiene technology** – enable tracking and enhanced hygiene procedures.
4. **Provide comfort and reduce stress with clarity** – clearly place signage, limit the number of employees per area and provide individual supplies.
5. **Clearly articulate the benefits** – ensure your team understands what is in it for them to return – cross-collaboration, long-term relationship building and career benefits.

If you need advice

Talk to Winc about how we can help continue to build the confidence as you bring your people back. With thousands of cleaning and hygiene as well as health and safety products to choose from, Winc is also able to support with complete end-to-end solutions and advice. To find out how we can help, speak to your Winc Account Manager.

About Winc

Winc is a workplace support company. We free up companies to do what they do best by taking care of everything a workplace needs to work – all in one place and delivered. We're here for all organisations, whether they're an SME or large enterprise, in education or health, private sector or government.

Our team of industry specialists is dedicated to delivering tailored solutions for our customers. This means everything from helping children around the country reach their full potential by having the right tools to support their learning, to enabling Australian workers to perform their best whatever they do, wherever they are.

From office, school, facilities and safety essentials, services like print and marketing, to demonstrating what's possible with our technology and workplace solutions, Winc has the widest product range available. When paired with EasyProcure, our unique procurement management engine, our customers can save on reporting time and optimise their procurement spend through flexible order settings and approval workflow.

¹ABC News, 'Coronavirus has forced Australians to work from home, but what are the impacts on CBDs?' <<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-18/coronavirus-working-from-home-impact-on-australian-cities/12435248>>

²Australian Financial Review, 'The tech companies that think it's time to end working from home' <<https://www.afr.com/work-and-careers/workplace/the-tech-companies-that-think-it-s-time-to-end-working-from-home-20200915-p55vvx>>

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