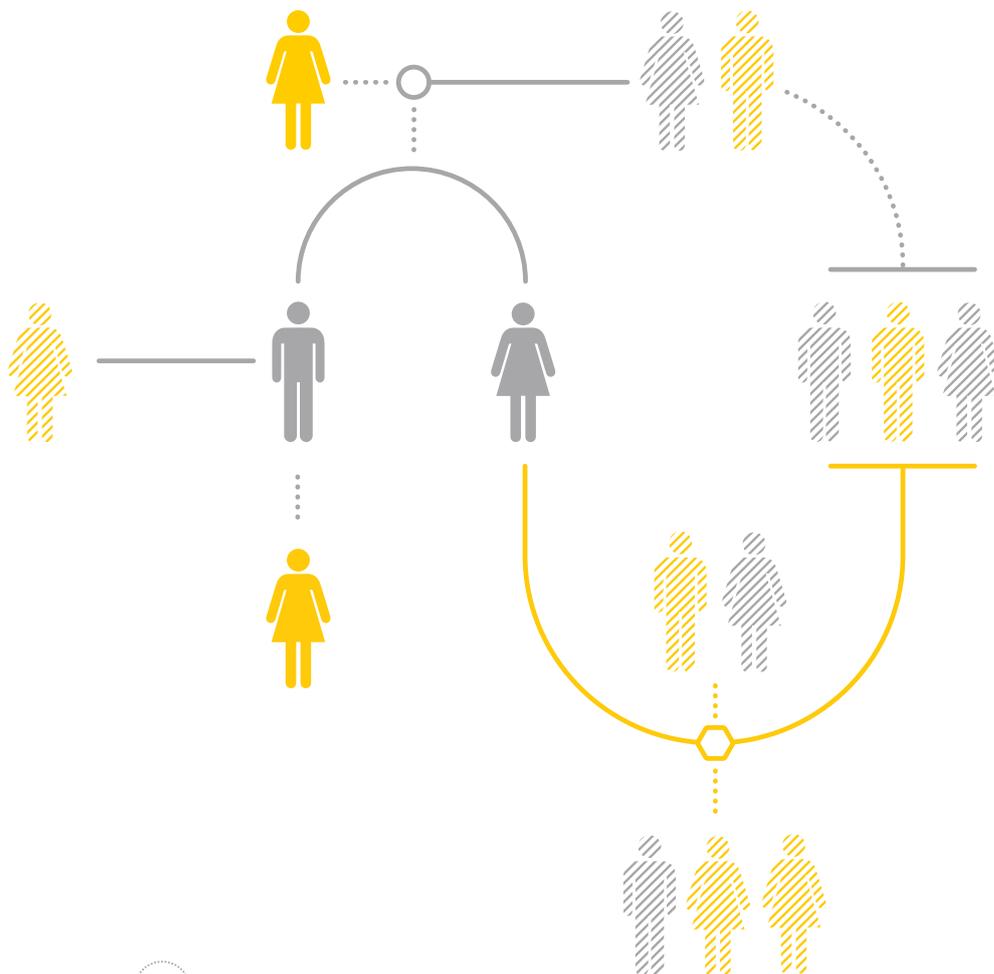


Manager flexibility toolkit

How to create successful, engaged and productive flexible teams



Contents

Section 1: Introduction	1
Overview	1
What is flexibility?	1
Understand your organisational context	3
Understand your role as a manager of flexible workers	3

Section 2: Managing flexibility	4
Flexibility good practice for managers	4
Flexibility good practice 1: leadership	4
Flexibility good practice 2: team culture	5
Flexibility good practice 3: active learning	6
Flexibility good practice 4: resource planning	6
Flexibility good practice 5: information flow	7
Flexibility good practice 6: results-based performance management	7
Flexibility good practice 7: self-management	8
Flexibility good practice 8: stakeholder management	8
Flexibility good practice 9: legal risk management	9
Flexibility good practice 10: change management	9

Section 1: Introduction

Overview

The workplace of the future is based on performance, outcomes and trust. Flexibility in working arrangements – that is, changing when, where and how work is done – can help to create this workplace while also delivering strong business outcomes. For this reason, the workplace of the future embeds flexibility at every level of the organisation.

Organisations are under increasing pressure to improve their flexibility capability. Flexibility can no longer be confined to the working relationship between an employee and their manager, but must become a standard way of working to meet the demands of modern life. Flexible working arrangements help teams and individuals to work productively, be more strongly engaged with their work, and stay longer with the organisation.

Implementing flexible working arrangements across teams and organisations presents a variety of challenges that managers and employees will need to negotiate. Teams that are working flexibly still need to operate productively with other teams and departments that are also working flexibly. This requires new and different approaches to management, drawing on individual abilities to connect, enable and collaborate with their teams and other stakeholders in the organisation.

A particular challenge can be the widely differing views that managers and employees have about flexibility. Positive experiences of flexibility in the past may influence managers and employees to actively promote flexible working arrangements and to use and develop the skills needed to handle any issues that arise. Negative experiences of flexibility can have a different effect, and may leave managers and employees feeling that flexibility is too difficult to implement effectively.

The aim of this toolkit is to provide information and guidance on how to successfully implement flexible working arrangements to maximise the opportunities and benefits that flexibility brings.

What is flexibility?

Flexible working arrangements, as defined by the [Fair Work Ombudsman](#), are changes to the standard hours, patterns and locations of work. Flexible working arrangements are usually implemented in response to a request from an employee. While any employee can request flexibility from their employer, only some employees are specifically entitled under the Fair Work Act to make a request. More details are available on the [Fair Work Ombudsman's](#) website.

Flexible working arrangements can take a variety of forms and some examples are provided in Table 1 below. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list.

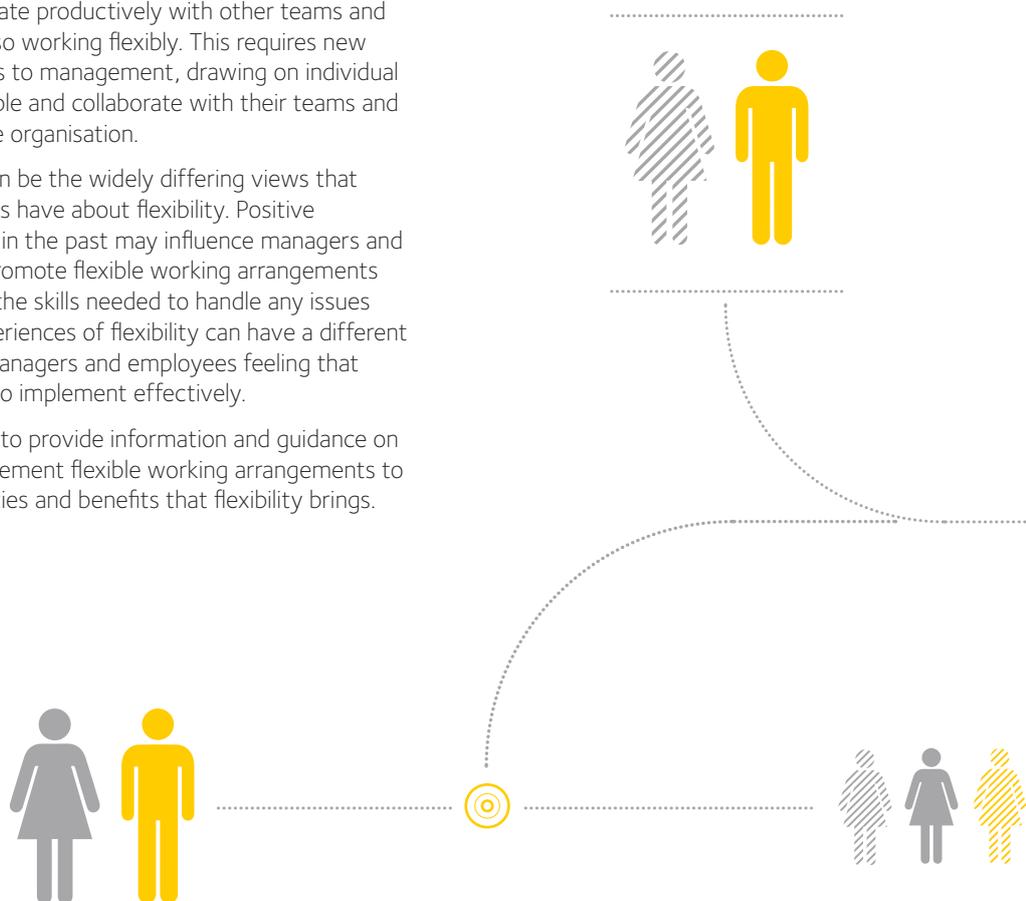


Table 1: types of flexibility

Type	Description
Flexible hours of work	This is where you may vary your start and finish times.
Compressed working weeks	You may work the same number of weekly (or fortnightly or monthly) working hours, compressed into a shorter period. For example, a forty-hour week may be worked at the rate of ten hours per day for four days instead of eight hours a day for five days. Changes to salary are not required.
Time-in-lieu	You may work approved overtime and be compensated by time-in-lieu. It can include 'flexitime' arrangements where an employee can work extra time over several days or weeks and then reclaim those hours as time off.
Telecommuting	<p>You may work at a location other than the official place of work. A wide range of terms refer to working at different locations, including 'mobile working', 'distributed work', 'virtual teams' and 'telework'. These are referred to collectively as 'telecommuting' in this toolkit.</p> <p>Note that telecommuting is generally most effective when there is a relatively even split between time spent in the office and working elsewhere. This lessens the sense of isolation that can come from working away from the office.</p>
Part-time work	A regular work pattern where you work less than full-time and are paid on a pro-rata basis for that work. Not all part-time work is necessarily flexible in nature, but it offers flexibility to workers who have other commitments or lifestyle choices that are not compatible with full-time work.
Job sharing	A full-time job role is divided into multiple job roles to be undertaken by two or more employees who are paid on a pro-rata basis for the part of the job each completes.
Purchased leave	A period of leave without pay, usually available after annual leave allocation is finished. Employers typically deduct the amount of unpaid leave from the worker's salary either as a lump sum or averaged over the year.
Unplanned leave	Informal access to leave for unanticipated or unplanned events.
Flexible careers	You are able to enter, exit and re-enter employment with the same organisation, or to increase or decrease your workload or career pace to suit different life stages. This may be particularly relevant for employees transitioning to retirement. It can also include employees who are able to take a 'gap year' early in their careers and return to work for the same employer afterwards.
Other choices about hours, patterns and locations of work	Other options about when, where and how work is done, e.g. overtime and having autonomy to decide when to take breaks during the working day.

The benefits of flexibility for teams and organisations

Research has shown there are a number of benefits for individuals, teams and organisations when employees are enabled to work flexibly.

- **Improved output.** For jobs that require concentration, working at home, working at hours when the office is quiet, or working from another location can help with the quality and speed of the work.
- **Flexible workers can be more effective.** Successful flexible workers are excellent self-managers who are both well organised and effective communicators.
- **Improved ability to meet the needs of clients and stakeholders.** An organisation that works flexibly can expand service delivery hours, meeting customer needs for out-of-hours contact with the organisation. Flexible work locations may extend the organisation's ability to react more quickly to client needs, or to extend their reach to more or different clients. Extra levels of service can increase loyalty.
- **Retaining knowledge, skills and experience / avoiding the cost of recruitment and retraining.** In the current job market, flexibility has become an attractive feature of organisations and has been marked as a key influence in candidates' job choices. Retaining existing knowledge and skills is also important to ensure maximum value is gained from the organisation's investment in recruitment and training. Offering flexibility reduces the likelihood that employees will leave and increases loyalty to the organisation.
- **Employers of Choice do flexibility well.** If your organisation aims to become a WGEA Employer of Choice for Gender Equality, providing employees with flexibility may align nicely with that aim.
- **Increased job satisfaction.** Employees who have opportunities to work flexibly have been shown to have greater job satisfaction and this increases both their productivity and their sense of loyalty to the organisation.
- **Improved teamwork.** Teamwork often improves as knowledge and enthusiasm are shared among a more motivated flexible working team.

Once you have understood what flexibility means in terms of changing the hours, pattern or location of work, and the benefits of flexibility in workplaces, it may be time to consider the organisational context into which flexible working arrangements will be introduced.

Understand your organisational context

It is important to understand where your organisation currently sits on the journey towards the integration of flexible working arrangements across the organisation. The stage of the journey an organisation has reached is reflected in the knowledge and support available about how to 'do' flexibility.

Organisations that have already started their journey may find the policies and procedures for a strategic approach to workplace flexibility have been rolled out consistently across the organisation, or they may be in the trial phase. Different business units may implement flexibility differently. At some stage of the flexibility journey, an organisation will need to determine if this approach is more effective than insisting on consistency across the organisation.

Knowing from the outset where your organisation is on the flexibility journey may help you leverage existing resources and gain support internally. As an initial step, you may wish to contact your human resources manager to find out more about your organisation's flexibility strategy, policy and resources.

Understand your role as a manager of flexible workers

Managers play a critical role in enabling and embedding workplace flexibility. Key aspects of this role are to:

- ensure employees are aware of their rights and responsibilities around flexible work
- provide employees with support and build a team culture based on high performance, trust and outcomes
- ensure communication and resource management are enabled between teams and departments
- set an example by openly supporting flexibility and working flexibly themselves, which will help employees and teams understand that working flexibly is a normal and accepted part of work.

This toolkit is designed to help managers at all levels implement productive, successful flexible working arrangements. It is intended to be of particular use to managers who directly manage employees working flexibly.

The toolkit outlines strategies that can guide you as you seek to maximise the benefits of flexibility. These strategies can be applied to the implementation of flexible working arrangements across whole teams or for only a few employees.

Section 2: Manage flexibility

It may be that a significant number of your team members already work flexibly. This section outlines good practice and specific management actions to help you maximise the benefits of flexible work. It will help you build your capacity to get the best out of the people you work with.

Flexibility good practice for managers

There are 10 good practice considerations for managers explored in the toolkit:

1. **Leadership:** to help flexible workers be optimally effective in their roles, managers need to establish their leadership, allocate roles, set the strategic context and provide a clear vision for the whole team.
2. **Team culture:** when flexible workers are part of your team, adjusting how team members connect and communicate can help to ensure the team is grounded in trust and provide clear understanding of roles and goals.
3. **Active learning:** being open to actively explore ideas, taking a trial-and-error approach to the implementation of flexibility, and using discovery activities to review and adjust flexible working arrangements is necessary if flexible work is to be effective in the longer term.
4. **Information flow:** finding a consistent means of ensuring free flow of information to and from flexible workers is critical to ensure that flexible workers are kept in the loop.
5. **Resource planning:** flexible work can help you meet all of your team's critical business outcomes, provided resources are allocated in line with where and when people are available.
6. **Achieving confidence in performance:** flexible workers often work in different locations and at different times from their manager and team-mates. Managers who work towards a trust based, outcome-oriented culture are most likely to enjoy highly successful flexibly working teams.
7. **Self-management:** managers who invest the time to find ways of adapting to flexible work, and who maintain an open mind to being flexible themselves can effectively manage the challenges of flexibility for themselves and their teams.
8. **Stakeholder requirements:** educating stakeholders about the many advantages of flexibility and discussing with them the best ways to make flexibility work for them are two strategies that can help successfully implement flexible work.
9. **Legal risk management:** work health and safety legislation may require that managers take responsibility for their flexible worker's health and safety. Discuss the implications of flexible work with your organisation's work, health and safety representative and make adjustments to ensure that you and your workers are effectively protected.
10. **Change management:** any substantial change in the workplace can create a need for good change management practices. Some managers may find it helpful to learn about ways to implement change effectively.

The next section will explore each flexibility good practice consideration in more detail.

Flexibility good practice 1: leadership

What is your leadership like now?

- Is the strategic context for your team's work clearly communicated?
- Do you have a well-developed vision for your team that is known by each team member?
- Are roles clearly allocated within your flexibly working team?
- Have you clearly established your leadership?
- Do you support and model flexibility in your own role?

Good practice strategies

Leadership makes the difference

What leaders say, how they act, what they prioritise and how they measure results all have an impact on effective leadership. Flexibility, by its nature, is more likely to thrive in a collaborative, goal-oriented environment. Managers who can create such an environment are more likely to model successful flexibility in their teams.

Speak positively about flexibility

As the leader of your team, it is important to make strong, consistently positive statements about the benefits and importance of flexibility to achieving the organisation's goals.

Role model flexibility

Consider adopting a flexible working arrangement yourself. This can be a powerful way of demonstrating successful flexible work, while enhancing your team's supportive and trust based culture.

Prioritise flexibility

Show that flexibility is important to you by making it a priority. One of the ways that you can prioritise flexibility is by ensuring that people who work flexibly are included in team activities and continue to receive rewards, training and opportunities for promotion.

Flexibility good practice 2: team culture

What is your team culture like now?

- Do all team members participate and have a sense of belonging?
- Are the organisation's values modelled and communicated to each flexible worker?
- Are you specifically aware of what you do to create great teamwork?
- Are colleagues supportive of flexible workers or are there issues such as social isolation and communication breakdown?
- Does your team have a trust-based culture?

Good practice strategies

Foster good team dynamics

You may already have a great team dynamic and an excellent working environment, or these may be on your list of 'things to improve'. Flexibility is often a way to ensure that what is working well continues to be successful, and it can be a very effective way of creating positive change in teams that may be struggling to cope.

Consulting with your team members about how you could adjust your traditional or current practices is a good way to start understanding how flexibility might work in your team. This could include changing the ways that social time is organised, how new team members are introduced and how new project teams are formed.

For social time and introducing new team members, some teams nominate events when everyone will attend, regardless of their flexibility arrangement. Others make a time to videoconference for a social chat, with no work talk allowed. Social media can also be a very useful platform for building social relationships in virtual teams.

When forming new project teams, be aware that people in virtual teams often bond initially over a common vision and mission, i.e. the common tasks they share. People then bond after a period of time over personal characteristics.

Educate your team about flexibility

Ensuring that your team understands the benefits and challenges of flexible work is critical to the success of any flexibility initiative. Encourage input from team members about how they perceive flexibility and what they think would work for them, and consider running focus groups with different levels of the workforce (see the WGEA Focus Group toolkit). Discuss the role of flexibility in achieving business outcomes and address any misperceptions that flexible workers are disinterested, unambitious or poor contributors.

Establish a trust-based culture

Trust is an important aspect of a flexible working arrangement and is based on an expectation that an agreement will be upheld, as well as a belief or confidence in a person's competence. Trust is also developed around a person's commitment or good will.

Having team members working flexibly can challenge these aspects of trust, so both manager and employee will need to work towards a mutually trusting relationship if flexibility is going to work successfully. Consider running workshops with team members to help them operate effectively in the absence of information, perhaps when you are not contactable or when they need to work autonomously.

Introduce transparent results

A results-based management framework where KPIs, objectives, goals, aims or other results are transparent and clearly described quickly reveals whether a person is meeting their objectives or might need some help. It also helps if roles are clearly established and communicated when new projects commence or when new teams form.

Transparent objectives and results are best used as a collaborative mechanism for both managers and employees to work towards the stated goal/s, rather than as a stick to ensure compliant behaviour. There are a number of collaborative work platforms that can help when introducing a results-based management framework.

Allocate work to suit flexibility

Teamwork often involves dynamic, innovative and collaborative work and the manager's challenge is how to undertake teamwork when members of a team are working flexibly. Improved communication and knowledge management systems, together with great team practices, will not only increase the breadth of work that can be done flexibly but will also enhance your team members' sense of work satisfaction. At the same time, allocating work that can be done more independently to flexible workers is a good strategy to ensure that the flexible worker's time is effectively allocated by taking into account the working context.

Create a sense of belonging for all team members

Managers who collaborate well with their teams can help all members feel appropriately included and overcome any feelings of isolation that can ensue from flexible work.

Manage communication across timeframes and locations

Communication – whether it is electronic or in person – is a valuable tool for enhancing team culture. Flexible work can require changes to traditional ways of communicating. It is important to choose the right communication platforms to suit the circumstances. Email is a very useful communication tool and often suffices, but there are times when face-to-face communication will be more effective and productive. This may be particularly important if sensitive or complex discussions are needed. Consider providing communication training to help team members navigate the challenges of communicating effectively when working flexibly.

Make team meetings accessible to all

Team meetings when members are working flexibly can take a variety of forms. Sometimes face-to-face meetings may include all team members; at other times, a team may use a variety of telecommunications and videoconferencing technologies to bring people together in the same room. Regardless of the platform, it is important to have clear meeting protocols. This means that each meeting should have a clear purpose and clear roles. The importance of non-verbal communication should also be taken into account when some members are not physically present.

Flexibility good practice 3: active learning

What is your active learning practice like now?

- Do you actively explore new flexibility arrangements to make sure everybody's needs are taken into account?
- Do some processes or activities in your team involve trial and error or tweaking and adjustment?
- Are you comfortable with establishing temporary solutions, testing their success, and then adjusting as needed?
- Do you use discovery activities to determine whether a flexible working arrangement is achieving its intended goals?
- Do you establish an expectation of open, honest conversations about issues to do with flexible working arrangements?

Good practice strategies

Discuss the active learning approach with your flexible team

The most effective way to establish productive, successful long-term flexible working arrangements is to use a trial-and-error approach. This gives you and your team an opportunity to learn what works in terms of communication tools, remote access, meeting times, results-based management, work allocation, team activities and so on. Discuss the active learning approach with your team and encourage their input.

Set up a trial period

A trial is when you actively test a flexibility arrangement to see how it works for your organisation, yourself, and your team. There is an agreed expectation that the arrangement may change in some way during the trial period. The Fair Work Commission recommends a 3-to-6 month trial period for a new working arrangement. If the new arrangement doesn't work well initially for either party, use the opportunity to amend the arrangement to be more effective. Once a flexible working arrangement is in place, we recommend it is reviewed regularly, potentially every three months for the first year or so.

Use discovery activities to develop your perspective

Discovery activities enable you and your flexible team to get the information you need to make adjustments that improve the situation. This is best approached through open, honest discussions about flexibility that focus on facts. Refer to your results-management framework and be flexible.

Flexibility good practice 4: resource planning

What is your resource planning like now?

- How well are core business needs being met within your current resources?
- Are your clients and stakeholders being appropriately served?
- Are competing requests and deadlines balanced and resolved?
- Are any of your team members struggling to manage their workload?
- Do you have visibility of who could potentially take on another project?

Good practice strategies

Plan ahead to reduce issues

Planning ahead is a simple but powerful strategy to help ensure resources are allocated in line with people's availability. Discuss resourcing with your team and develop strategies to deal with potential pitfalls. Planning the resources needed for flexible workers to do their jobs effectively can be quite a complex process and we recommend this is done at the earliest opportunity.

Allocate tasks to suit flexibility

Your process for managing your team's workload may require some adjustments when many or all team members are working flexibly. Collaborative project management and communication tools can help your flexible workers to be involved in teamwork, if needed. A central project planning tool can also enable each team member to communicate changes to the project.

Manage under-capacity and the risk of work intensification

Be proactive to maintain awareness of your flexible workers' workloads, to ensure that they are neither overloaded nor underused. If issues arise, it may be that the work within your team can be reallocated or jobs redesigned to better suit flexibility.

Flexibility good practice 5: information flow

What is your information flow like now?

- Are all of your team members able to attend all relevant meetings?
- Are any of your team members complaining of increased stress?
- Does your technology support remote or mobile access for those team members who need it?
- Do you have handover procedures or platforms (e.g. collaborative project management software) in place?
- Is there a smooth flow of information in your team or does a lack of quick access to information result in frequent errors?

Good practice strategies

Establish communication patterns that support flexibility

It can be a good idea to establish communications patterns deliberately, to ensure that information flows freely. By doing so, the patterns of communication that happen in your team can become part of your team's norms. Here are a few examples of communication patterns that work in some teams:

- projects are updated daily via a collaborative project management software tool or a phone call
- handovers occur weekly via a written update and audio recording
- team meetings occur weekly via face-to-face meeting or videoconference
- sensitive or complex discussions occur ad hoc as needed via face-to-face meeting or high quality videoconference
- out-of-office notifications are handled by an automatic email response and phones are diverted to a team member
- all team members expect that no response is expected for emails received after hours.

Keep all team members updated

When it comes to flexibility, your team members will often need to catch up on developments that occurred while working offsite or for different hours. This may be particularly important for job sharing, compressed working weeks, telecommuting and part-time work arrangements, but could be applicable to every flexible working arrangement to some degree. It is important to ensure that everyone on the team is kept up-to-date.

Use email appropriately

Between face-to-face, videoconferencing, instant messaging and email there is a wide range of communication platforms at our disposal. Text-based communication technologies have their uses, but they are often not appropriate for communication tasks that need rich interaction. Email is usually less efficient and less successful than face-to-face conversations for discussing sensitive, complex or sophisticated topics.

Use collaborative technology tools to improve information flow

Collaborative communication tools and interaction platforms can expand the range of options beyond traditional one-way, text-based technologies. Examples include unified communications platforms, collaborative work rooms, collaborative project management software, wikis and social media platforms. Lastly, videoconferencing can be used to conduct team meetings, have discussions and keep team members up-to-date. Some team members may be less familiar or comfortable with some forms of electronic communication so you will need to consider providing for these team members so they can participate fully. When using any electronic communication option, it is important to ensure that security features are in place to protect remote and mobile access.

Keep cross-departmental channels open

Internal stakeholders can sometimes be an afterthought when it comes to planning and preparing for flexibility in your team. Communicate your team's availability to your internal stakeholders. Find out how best to keep information flowing smoothly.

Flexibility good practice 6: results-based performance management

What is your results-based performance management like now?

- Does each position in your team have a framework of KPIs, goals, outcomes, objectives or similar that fully covers your expectations of their work?
- Are your expectations about the quality, timing, efficiency and stakeholder impact of the work clearly described and fully understood?
- Do you have a performance management framework that is closely tied to results delivered?
- Do you know without a doubt whether each member of your team is performing as expected in his or her role?
- Do you give your staff members a fair degree of autonomy in how they deliver results?

Good practice strategies

Establish accountability

Flexibly working teams often need greater transparency about the work being done across the team, and this can help ensure accountability. Some flexible workers may also need more guidance in the early days to understand the standard of work that needs to be delivered.

Build in autonomy

Flexibility often means that staff members will work more autonomously. Research and experience clearly show that when staff members are given greater autonomy to decide how they achieve work outcomes, they work more productively and are more engaged. Make the most of this by loosening your grip on 'how' work outcomes are achieved.

Discuss performance as part of reviewing flexibility arrangements

Your employees need clear, factual feedback about how they're tracking in relation to their performance objectives. These discussions should focus on objective, observable facts. If you have established a results-based management framework, there will be clear and readily-accessible information about the person's performance to hand.

Your employees will respond more positively if you resist any temptation to make subjective judgements based on your opinion when discussing a team member's performance. Uphold trust in the relationship by being open to alternative explanations for behaviours you may initially see as negative.

When specifically reviewing flexibility arrangements restate your ideal outcome – i.e. arriving at a situation that works as well as possible for everyone – and then discuss any issues. Approach issues with a view to finding a better solution. Manage your team equitably: even if only one or two members of your team work flexibly, manage your whole team using the same approach

Remember to reward good performance. Not only does rewarding good performance contribute to stronger results, it also improves morale and staff engagement.

Flexibility good practice 7: self-management

What is your self-management like now?

- Are you flexible and willing to improve and adjust flexible working arrangements in response to feedback?
- Are you aware of whether you need to do additional training to manage flexibility?
- Are you adapting personally to a results-oriented management approach based on trust, letting go, and communicating expectations?
- Are you managing flexibility relatively easily within your existing workload?
- Are you aware of your bias towards or against flexibility?

Good practice strategies

Focus on learning

Focus on developing your knowledge and skills for good flexibility management. Permit yourself some time to learn the skills. Try things out and monitor your success. Change and adapt your management style in response to what works and what doesn't. Overall, stay flexible and willing to learn.

Become aware of bias

Having a bias about flexibility may limit your opportunities to try it out, or it may render you less likely to see problems with a particular flexibility arrangement. It is good to become aware of your bias so that you can continue to learn, adapt and develop. Keep a regular journal to encourage self-reflection and increase your awareness of how you are adapting to new flexible working arrangements in your team. Encourage team members to do the same.

Ensure you have the resources you need

Use this toolkit to demonstrate the changes you need to make as a manager and the additional time and resources required. Take advantage of any available manager training on flexibility.

Flexibility good practice 8: stakeholder management

What is your stakeholder management like now?

- Are your clients and other stakeholders being appropriately managed?
- Do you monitor the impact of your team's work on your stakeholders?
- Do you minimise the impact of flexibility on your stakeholders?
- Do you work collaboratively with stakeholders, where possible, to resolve issues affecting them?
- Do you support your stakeholders through major transitions?

Good practice strategies

Minimise stakeholder impact

Explain how and why you and the organisation are committed to flexibility. For example, there may be a commitment to become an employer of choice, to attract great staff or to retain skills within your team. Discuss and resolve issues around flexibility that could impact significantly on stakeholders. Remember to keep your internal stakeholders informed and supported, not only your clients. This may include giving teams in work areas near you a clear explanation of why your team has different work patterns, to avoid rumours and confusion.

Clarify the stakeholder benefits

Outline the benefits flexibility can achieve for your stakeholders. For example, they may be more likely to keep dealing with the same person; they could expect greater engagement from contacts within the organisation; there may be potential to contact the team across a wider range of hours and so on.

Support stakeholders

Recognise that if flexible work results in a disruption to stakeholders' business needs, it will take a significant shift, learning curve and adaptation on the part of your stakeholders to adjust to new ways of working with your team or flexible worker. Be sure to plan for crisis situations in addition to your business-as-usual stakeholder management.

Flexibility good practice 9: legal risk management

What is your legal risk management like now?

- Are you implementing flexibility with the impact on gender equality in your workplace firmly in mind?
- Are you meeting your obligations under the *Fair Work Act 2009*?
- Have you followed the requirements and regulations for flexible workers established by your jurisdiction's work health and safety legislation and your organisation's work health and safety policy?
- Are you meeting your obligations under the discrimination acts?
- Are you meeting your obligations with regards to the *Privacy Act 1988*, for example when it comes to security and confidentiality of company and client documents?
- Have you ensured that your flexible workers have followed all relevant policies, to meet the obligations of relevant legislation?

Good practice strategies

Find out your obligations

The first thing to understand about your legal obligations as an employer is that the *Fair Work Act 2009* established that some employees have the right to request flexible work. Employees who make a request must receive a written response within 21 days. Read more on the Fair Work Ombudsman site.

Managers should note that flexibility may cause other legislation to become relevant in areas such as pay and conditions, equal employment opportunity and other matters.

Your obligations under the relevant laws may surprise you. For example, Work Health and Safety legislation may not be the same in your state or territory as in other states and territories. Be sure to find out what your obligations are. You may want to ask your organisation's human resources area to provide you and your team with an induction in the relevant areas.

Actively review your compliance

Don't be caught out by changing legal obligations. Instead, make time regularly – perhaps annually – to ensure that your practices are in line with each of the relevant pieces of legislation.

Flexibility good practice 10: change management

What is your change management like now?

- Do you clearly outline the vision of your team after the change, together with the reason why change is necessary?
- Do you actively uncover and constructively combat negative assumptions and attitudes about change?
- Do you ensure that all voices are heard?
- Do you provide support to help change long-held habits and behaviours?

Good practice strategies

Align with your organisation's change management strategy

Your organisation may be undertaking an organisation-wide move to flexibility. This will involve a tailored change management program that may impact your work. Aligning with this strategy may provide you with access to additional resources to support the change. This context can also form part of the vision you establish regarding the reason for change.

Work with your team to help them adjust

Your team may need some help adjusting to flexibility and the changes it may bring to team culture, performance management, resource planning, information flow and so on. To help them, outline a clear vision of how your team will benefit from flexibility. Team members can often see issues that are less visible to managers. Taking note of these issues and trying to address them will help each member of the team to align with the change. Constructively address negative assumptions and attitudes and ensure that all voices are heard. Give time and encouragement to those having difficulty changing long-held habits and behaviours, and overall, work with your team to help them adjust.

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Advice and assistance

**For further advice
and assistance,
please contact:**

Workplace Gender Equality Agency
Level 7, 309 Kent Street
Sydney NSW 2000

t: 02 9432 7000 or 1800 730 233

e: wgea@wgea.gov.au

www.wgea.gov.au