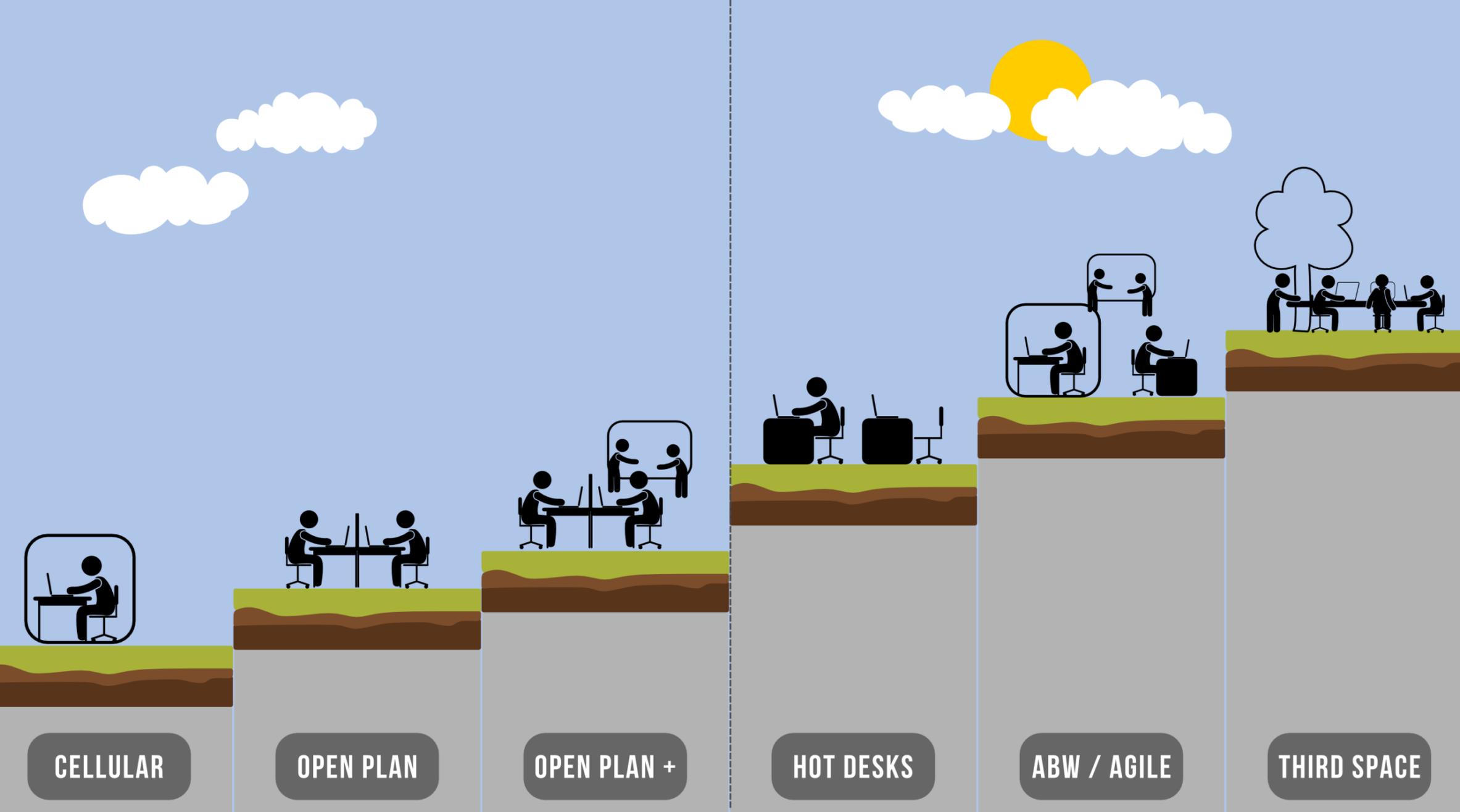


# mates: australian coworking

02

Australia is getting a reputation for workplace experimentation and rapid innovation. Many Australian organisations recognise the positive impact workplace design can have on performance and culture. This is also true for our rapidly expanding coworking culture, raising the question, how well do coworking environments perform in Australia?

Here at Puzzle Partners we are passionate about workplace innovation. We live and breathe workplaces of all shapes and sizes. From cellular, office based environments and open plan, through to flexible – activity based environments and coworking spaces. We spend our days observing how well the environment supports performance and the people who work within.

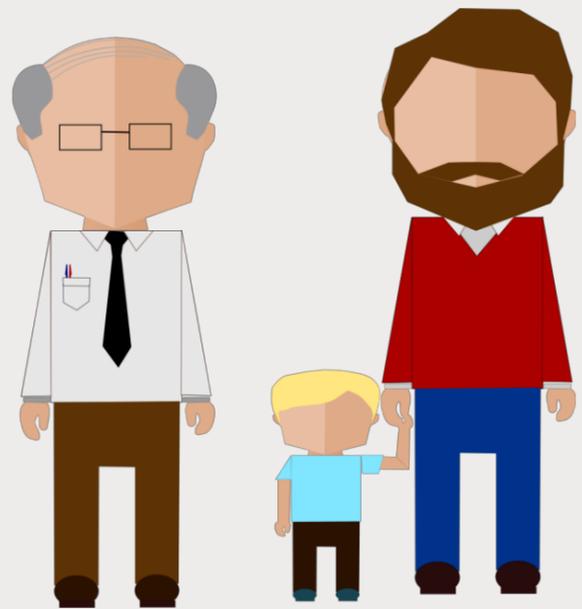


04

Over the last two years, we've been actively exploring coworking environments, enthusiastically visiting and working within a variety of different coworking organisations here in Australia as well as in the United States. We wanted to understand how coworking was different from other work environments including office based or open plan, and especially free address environments, such as activity based working.



After feverishly researching coworking environments, we understand that coworkers thrive better than people within regular offices. They have a meaningful connection to the work they do, they have greater job control, and feel part of a close knit community. Indeed, coworkers feel they perform better because of the social support they receive from other members of the community, particularly during times of stress. In short, coworkers thrive because they have control over where and how they work.



But how does this compare to other non-traditional work environments like activity based working? People working within flexible, free address environments can also feel more empowered and connected to and across the organisation. They too feel that they thrive more in well designed, well executed activity based environments compared to traditional offices.



10

So which environment is better? To answer this question, we collaborated with 10 Australian Coworking organisations to survey and benchmark the experiences of their members with those of people in flexible working environments, as well as people working in traditional office or open plan environments. We were lucky enough to include a range of very different coworking spaces, including: The Cluster, Tank Stream Labs, Depo8, Electron Workshop, Exchange Workspaces, Framework Melbourne, Stone & Chalk, The CoWork Collective, The Workery, and WeCo.

# 3800

traditional office  
responses

# 2600

flexible  
responses

# 280

coworking  
responses

12

More than 280 responses later, we were able to compare member's coworking experiences directly with over 6,500 responses from people working in traditional office environments as well as flexible, activity based environments.

# how do environments compare?

94%

coworking

78%

flexible

55%

traditional

People working within flexible environments typically provide more positive ratings of the environment compared to traditional office environments. However, people working within coworking communities rate their environment even more positively than flexible or traditional work environments.

coworking.  
the most positive  
working environment

PUZZLE