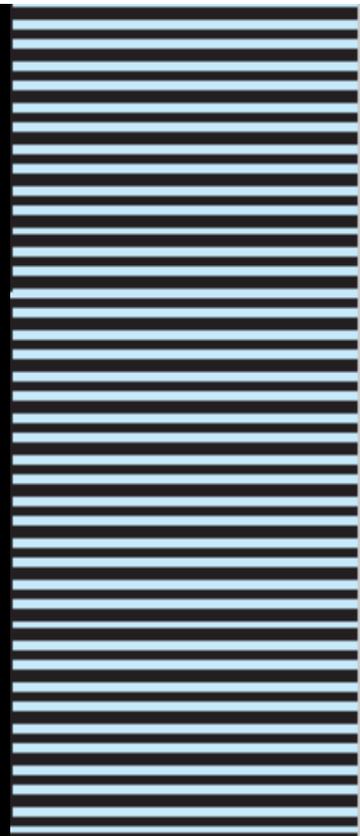




**Designing healthy
workspaces:
results from
Australian certified
open-plan offices**





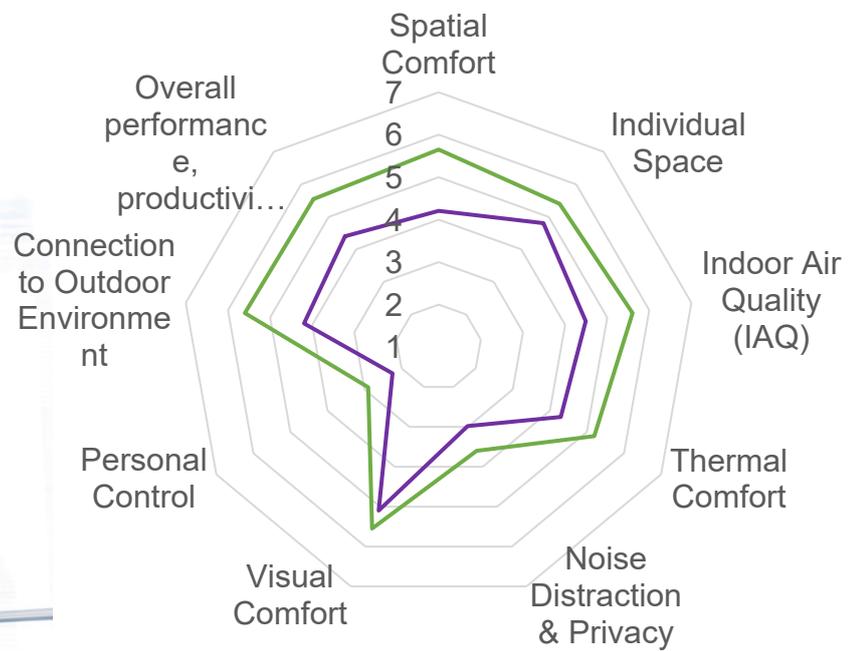
AIM

Despite the rapid adoption of health-related guidelines and tools by the Australian high-end corporate real estate, there is a scarcity of empirical evidence arising from certified premises. This study compares results from certified premises against other open-plan offices in order to understand differences arising from occupants' satisfaction, perceived productivity and health.

KEY FINDINGS

- Certified offices outperformed the average benchmark in the majority of the IEQ dimensions;
- WELL-certified offices outperformed the non-WELL certified premisses;
- Offices designed to support ABW outperformed traditional settings in the majority of the IEQ dimensions;
- The highly-ranked offices in spatial comfort and connection to the outdoor share similar health-related design features;
- Active design features like sit-stand desks coincided with higher satisfaction, health, and productivity.





— WELL-certified Offices (2 cases, n = 251)

— non-WELL certified (7 cases, n = 870)

CONCLUSIONS

The targets set by tools such as the Green Building Council of Australia and WELL may have a positive effect on workers' perception of their physical environment, satisfaction, productivity and health. High performance, certified offices presented an interior design configuration that embraced the preferred way of working and a variety of spaces to support several work-related activities.

Beyond being certified or not, all offices with higher level of occupants' satisfaction for spatial comfort and connection to the outdoor environment share common design features aiming at improving workers' physical and mental health. They implemented active design features, and prioritized access to daylight and greenery. The design features documented in the WELL Building standard provide a reliable source of evidence and guidance.

For full research findings, go here:

Candido, C., Marzban, S., Haddad, S., Mackey, M. and Loder, A. (2020), "Designing healthy workspaces: results from Australian certified open-plan offices", *Facilities*, Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print. <https://doi.org/10.1108/F-02-2020-0018>

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