

# STAKEHOLDER REPORT

## 2023/25



Produced by Bendigo Health, Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit  
June 2025

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We acknowledge the First Peoples of Australia who are the Traditional Custodians of the land and water where we live, work and play. We celebrate that this is the oldest living and continuous culture in the world. We are proud to be sharing the land that we work on and recognise that sovereignty was never ceded.



We welcome all cultures, nationalities and religions. Being inclusive and providing equitable healthcare is our commitment

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# Executive Summary

The Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU) Stakeholder Report highlights the unit's commitment to improving health equity and public health outcomes across the region through a place-based and partnership approach. It reflects the progress made during the implementation of the two-year Population Health Plan 2023–25 and sets the foundation for the upcoming 2025–2029 plan.

The LMPHU's strategic focus areas - **Climate Change and Health**, **Healthy Food Systems (HFS)**, and **Mental Wellbeing** - were identified through extensive stakeholder consultation and are supported by system enablers: **collaboration**, **communication**, and **capacity building**.

The LMPHU plays a critical role in translating state public health priorities into locally relevant actions. It has engaged with 70 organisations and supported/contributed to 73 sector networks and subcommittees.

More than 1,600 people participated in 111 capacity-building sessions. Communications strategies have included social media, media campaigns, and multilingual resources to enhance engagement and accessibility.

Key achievements across the three prevention priorities include the development of the Loddon Mallee Climate Change and Health Framework,

delivery of emergency preparedness resources and establishment of seasonal resilience networks. For food systems, LMPHU supported 27 community gardens, funded 12 organisations to progress healthy food system activities and advanced policy, data mapping and toolkits. In mental wellbeing, the unit funded 18 organisations to progress mental wellbeing activities, launched inclusive community events and training, and contributed to regional social inclusion measurement initiatives.

Health Protection remains integral to the LMPHU's role, with over 7,000 confirmed and probable notifiable conditions reported, including 198 outbreaks.

The unit supported aged care, education and childcare settings with outbreak preparedness and translated health campaigns.

The LMPHU also enhanced regional emergency preparedness through active involvement in emergency planning committees and local risk intelligence.

Through coordinated, evidence-informed action and strong stakeholder relationships, LMPHU continues to build a resilient, equitable public health system for the Loddon Mallee region.



Buloke



Bendigo



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## 2. Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit

*Keeping our regional communities healthy, safe and well*

*A dedicated, multi-disciplinary team of public health specialists based across the Loddon Mallee, using local knowledge and place-based relationships to effectively tailor and deliver public health initiatives that respond to the needs of our region.*



### What we do

#### Protection

Use surveillance, monitoring and public health responses to limit the impacts of communicable diseases on our communities.

#### Prevention

Working with local stakeholders, LMPHU is strengthening the health prevention system to advance health equity and improve public health outcomes.

### How we do it



**Collaborate** across sectors, regions, and communities to deliver locally led, evidence-informed public health initiatives

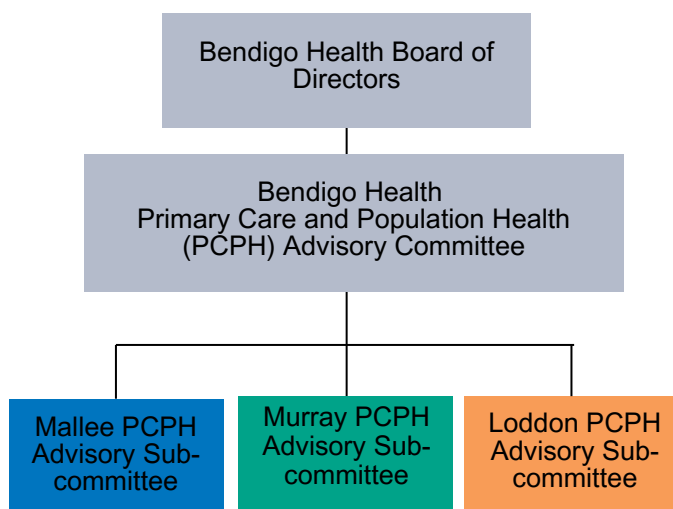


**Communicate** with communities and partners to share relevant, actionable public health information and advice



**Build capacity** internally and externally to strengthen regional public health systems and prepare for future challenges

### Our Governance Structure



### Focus areas



Climate Change and Health



Healthy Food Systems



Mental Wellbeing



Communicable Disease Control

# 3. Population Health Planning

## LMPHU Planning 2023-25

In 2023, the LMPHU committed to a two-year Population Health Plan 2023-2025. At this time the LMPHU prevention structures, including workforce, governance and office establishment, were being developed. It was also deemed critical to align future planning efforts with the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Planning cycle for 2025–2029.

The decision to adopt a two-year plan was strategic and allowed for a reassessment of priorities in 2025 to inform a four-year Population Health Plan (2025–2029).

During 2023, extensive stakeholder consultation was conducted, involving 110 organisations through workshops and surveys. This process led to the identification and endorsement of three key priorities by the LMPHU governance structure:

- Climate Change and Health
- Healthy Food Systems
- Mental Wellbeing

## LMPHU Planning 2025-29

The Primary Care and Population Health Advisory sub-committees agreed with the LMPHU to continue with the same population health priorities through to 2029.

This reflects a shared understanding that achieving meaningful impact in public health often requires longer timeframes, making continuity essential.

Retaining existing priorities allows for the consolidation of foundational work already underway, supports and enables continued clarification and development of the LMPHU's role and function within the public health system.

The LMPHU is in the process of defining its role within the prevention system and optimise ways to support our local stakeholders.

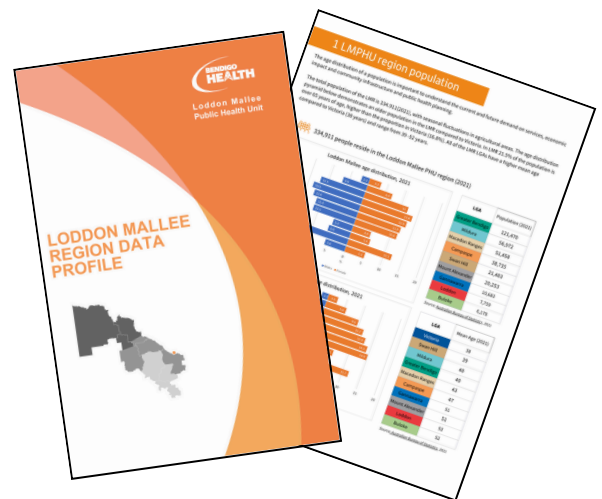
The unit sought insights from our stakeholders regarding their perceptions of our role and the support they need. Their feedback emphasised the importance of supporting system enablers: collaboration, communication and capacity building.

## Needs Assessment

### Data

To support LMPHU and stakeholder planning, the LMPHU has brought together publicly available population health data at a local government area (LGA) and a regional level. These Community Profiles will support organisational service planning, evaluation planning and funding or grant submissions.

LMPHU is committed to keeping the community profiles updated as new data is released. Stakeholders have been invited to submit requests for data clarifications or specific data to support their local planning.



Regional and local government area community profiles



### Stakeholder consultations

Across the Loddon Mallee region, 123 stakeholders participated in three workshops to hear from experts, explore opportunities for regional and place-based action, and discuss collaboration over the next four years. Summary reports of the planning forums are available below:

- Mental Wellbeing
- Climate change and health
- Healthy food system

Informed by these consultations, LMPHU has identified shared goals and objectives, which are currently being tested at the sub-regional level. The outcomes of these consultations will further guide the development of the LMPHU Population Health Plan 2025-29.



# 4. System Enablers

Within Victoria’s tiered public health system, Local Public Health Units (LPHUs) play a critical role at the regional level by translating state policy into local action. Local stakeholders identified the LMPHU as a key system enabler, with a focus on collaboration, communication, and capacity building.

Cross-sector collaboration fosters shared ownership of health outcomes, leverages diverse expertise, and supports more integrated and efficient responses to complex health challenges, contributing to value-based prevention initiatives.

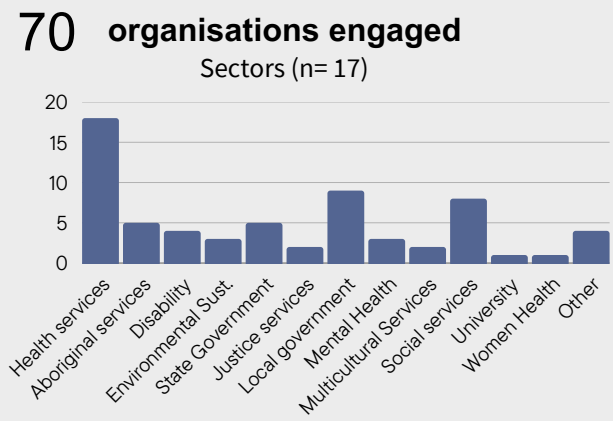
Clear and consistent communication enhances the flow of evidence, priorities, and practices across the public health system, while also strengthening transparency and trust with stakeholders and communities.

Capacity building, through workforce development, knowledge exchange, and resource alignment fortifies the system’s ability to design, implement, and evaluate effective prevention initiatives. Strengthening these system enablers positions the public health system to better address long-term priorities and reduce health inequities across Victoria.

Collaboration	Collaborate across sectors, regions, and communities to deliver locally led, evidence-informed public health initiatives
Communication	Communicate with communities and partners to share relevant, actionable public health information and advice
Capacity building	Build capacity internally and externally to strengthen regional public health systems and prepare for future challenges

## 4a. Collaboration

### Organisations engaged

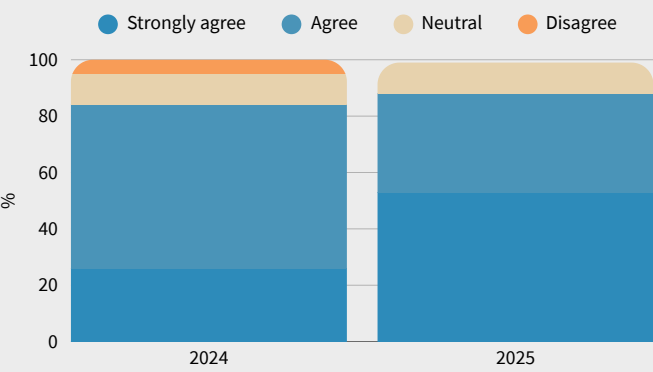


**73 Total sector networks/committees**  
(LMPHU facilitate/participate)

### Advisory Sub-Committee feedback

A survey was sent to the Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Sub- Committee members. The response rate in 2025 was 35%. In 2024 there was 19 responses and 17 responses in 2025.

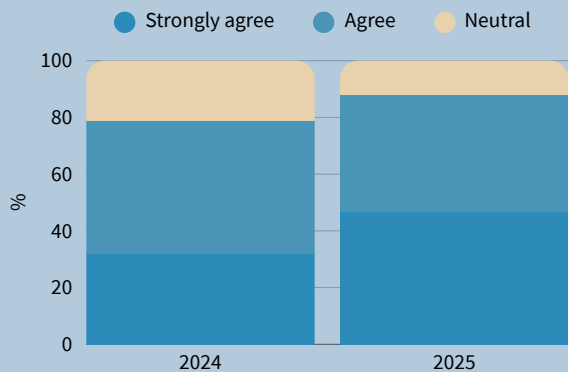
**88%** agreed there is a clear need for and commitment to continue the collaboration in the medium term



# 4b. Communication

## Advisory Sub-Committee Feedback

88% agreed communication from LMPHU is timely, relevant and easy to understand



The Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Sub-Committees were surveyed for their feedback on LMPHU performance 2024 (n=19) and 2025 (n=17)

## Media Engagement

70 Social media posts  
11,327 engagements

289 Radio spots across 4 radio stations

8 Newspaper articles across 5 LGA publications

2 Television campaigns

## LMPHU Fortnightly Updates

LMPHU has transitioned to a program to create, send and track email campaigns/updates to enable evaluation of areas of interest and uptake of public health opportunities.

1,144 Stakeholders across 360 organisations receive the LMPHU update

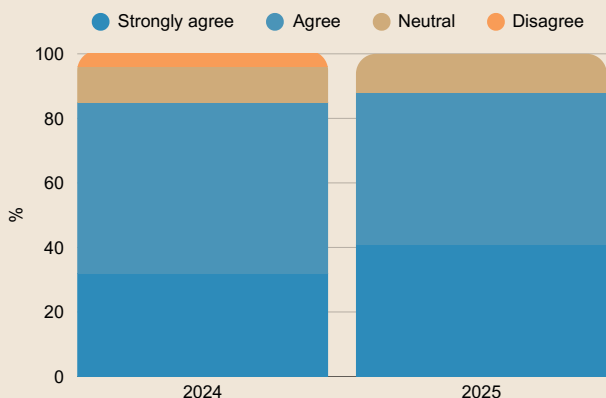
54% Average opening rate

788 Average number of clicks/update

# 4c. Capacity Building

## Advisory Sub-Committee Feedback

88% agreed LMPHU and partners share knowledge and skills to grow sector capability



## Sector Capacity Building

111 LMPHU supported sector capacity building sessions

1,645 Stakeholders participating in capacity building sessions



Mental health promotion master class



# 5. Prevention Priorities

## 5a. Climate change and health

The Loddon Mallee region faces escalating climate-related health risks, placing increasing pressure on communities, services and emergency systems. The LMPHU prioritises climate change and health action to protect vulnerable populations and improve health equity.

The LMPHU is leading a coordinated regional response, guided by the Loddon Mallee Climate Change and Health Framework. This regional framework, developed with local stakeholders and experts, underpins all action and collaboration to build resilience across the region.

The LMPHU participates in multiple regional and state networks and climate emergency advisory groups. It has also established new cross-sector initiatives such as seasonal resilience networks. This growing of regional and state partners, reflects the strengthening commitment and momentum to address climate and health challenges across the region. Community engagement is also central, with participation in sustainability festivals, expos, and multicultural events.

The LMPHU has delivered co-designed emergency preparedness resources for people with disability, translated climate health materials for new arrival communities, and developed community education tools. Projects such as Cool Spaces, Cool It Streets and energy literacy workshops aim to reduce the health impacts of extreme heat and improve home energy efficiency.

The LMPHU supports health services with Sustainability Working Groups or Climate, Health Action Plans or Strategies and education, while promoting the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals Initiative. A sub-regional Community of Practice to support health services in climate change adaptation and mitigation has been established.

The LMPHU contributes to regional and state initiatives, reviews policy guidance, and collaborates with academic partners to inform future planning. Through continued collaboration, capacity building and communication, the LMPHU is strengthening the systems that support Climate change and health across the region.

[For more information click here](#)



### Collaboration

**10** cross-sector networks, representing statewide, regional and seven local networks that covers five local government areas

**2** LMPHU funded project



Pyramid Hill attendees of the energy efficiency and literacy workshop



### Capacity building

Climate change and health presentations funded/coordinated/ delivered by LMPHU

**620** Total training attendances with repeat attendance by some individuals

**6** Resources developed by the LMPHU

- Loddon Mallee Climate Change and Health Framework
- Cool spaces
- Research: understanding climate impact on three diverse groups
- Climate change and impact on health: English, Dari, Karen
- Keeping cool in your home
- Heat health

**3** Case studies:

- Cool IT Street project
- Developing a climate change and health regional framework
- Energy efficiency for tenants

## 5b. Healthy food systems (HFS)

Healthy eating is a key priority in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. In the Loddon Mallee region, poor diet is the second highest modifiable risk factor contributing to disease burden. Our stakeholders have identified food security, particularly access and affordability, and the need for healthy, sustainable, and equitable food systems as a regional priority.

The LMPHU supported implementation of the Healthy Loddon Campaspe (HLC) initiative across five southern LGAs within the LMPHU catchment, with active membership on the local project action groups and the regional reference group. The LMPHU also supported the review of HLC's Flourish healthy food system framework to assess its relevance for northern the LGAs.

LMPHU is working with local organisations to enhance policy understanding, promote food systems leadership and build capacity towards healthy food systems. Through the formation of new and developing networks, the LMPHU has strengthened collaboration, bringing community stakeholders together to explore foundational research and system understanding. These effort reflect an acknowledgement that food systems are complex and impacted by environmental, economic and societal influences.

The LMPHU support numerous public health initiatives, including developing the Mallee and Murray Healthy Food System Action Plans, expanding a secondary school breakfast program in the Loddon Sub-Region and supported twenty-seven community vegetable gardens to promote culturally appropriate food spaces to increase participation and community connectedness.

To strengthen regional food systems, the LMPHU have promoted evidence informed programs such as commencing a Social Supermarket Toolkit, mapping food security across the catchment, and preparing LGA-based food data profiles. The LMPHU funded Sustain: The Australian Food Network to analyse food system environments in the Murray sub-region.

The LMPHU continues to support priority communities and improve local understanding of how food systems can enable healthy, sustainable, and equitable diets.

For more information [click here](#)



### Collaboration

- 16** HFS cross-sector networks, with representations from all Loddon Mallee LGAs
- 12** organisations funded for HFS projects in their catchments



Nyah District community garden



### Capacity Building

- 7** HFS capacity building activities funded/ delivered by LMPHU
- 70** Total training attendances with repeat attendance by some individuals
- 6** Resources developed by the LMPHU
  - LMPHU HFS framework consultation report
  - Murray HFS project
  - Murray community food and farming survey report
  - Food systems and health policy scan 2025
- 4** Case studies:
  - Engaging with multicultural communities
  - Yurri Mandiga Indigenous Garden
  - School breakfast program
  - Nyah community garden



## 5c. Mental wellbeing

Improving mental wellbeing is a key priority in the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan. In the LMPHU region, eight of nine LGAs report higher rates of mental health conditions, and all have suicide rates above the Victorian average. We aim to enhance mental wellbeing through a prevention focused approach, promoting resilience, connection and early intervention strategies across the Loddon Mallee region.

LMPHU is leading cross-sector, place-based responses including establishing and joining regional networks, including the Buloke, Gannawarra and Swan Hill Healthy Minds Network, Mildura's School-Focused Youth Mental Wellbeing Network, the Our Place Partnership in Robinvale, and the Culturally Significant Events Committee.

To reduce stigma and raise awareness, LMPHU supported a range of resources and events that promote open conversations about mental health. These included *Keeping Mentally Well* resources, RUOK Day campaigns, the Exploring Wellness initiative, Mental Wellbeing expos and events held in libraries, gyms and community hubs.

LMPHU are committed to fostering safe and inclusive communities, services and workplaces. Initiatives included training in gender equity, LGBTIQ+ inclusion, and cultural safety; projects supported school-based LGBTIQ+ strategies, multicultural health events, a youth podcast challenge, and the Zinda and Pride festivals.

Community connection and social prescribing remain strong regional focuses. We've developed and promoted resources, including social prescribing tools and local mapping, and supported programs such as community gardens, music and art sessions for young people, and peer-led activities.

To track impact, LMPHU contributed to the Social Inclusion Measurement Project, supporting consistent regional data collection and explored the mental health benefits of volunteering.

Through local collaboration, education, and inclusive action, LMPHU is strengthening the systems that support mental wellbeing across the region.

For more information [click here](#)



### Collaboration

- 18** cross sector networks with representations from all Loddon Mallee LGAs
- 18** organisations funded to support mental wellbeing in their catchments



Celebrating at the Pride Festival



### Capacity Building

- 31** Mental wellbeing funded/coordinated/delivered by LMPHU
- 469** Total training attendances with repeat attendance by some individuals
- 4** Resources contributed to or developed by the LMPHU
  - Social prescribing
  - Keeping Mentally Well Campaspe, Macedon Ranges, Greater Bendigo.
- 3** Case studies:
  - LGBTIQ+ Inclusion in a school
  - The podcast challenge
  - Mental health and wellbeing Expo
  - Loddon's blue tree
  - Sexual health

# 6. Sub-regional progress reports

The LMPHU takes a place-based approach to addressing health and wellbeing needs, recognising that each community faces unique challenges and possesses distinct strengths.

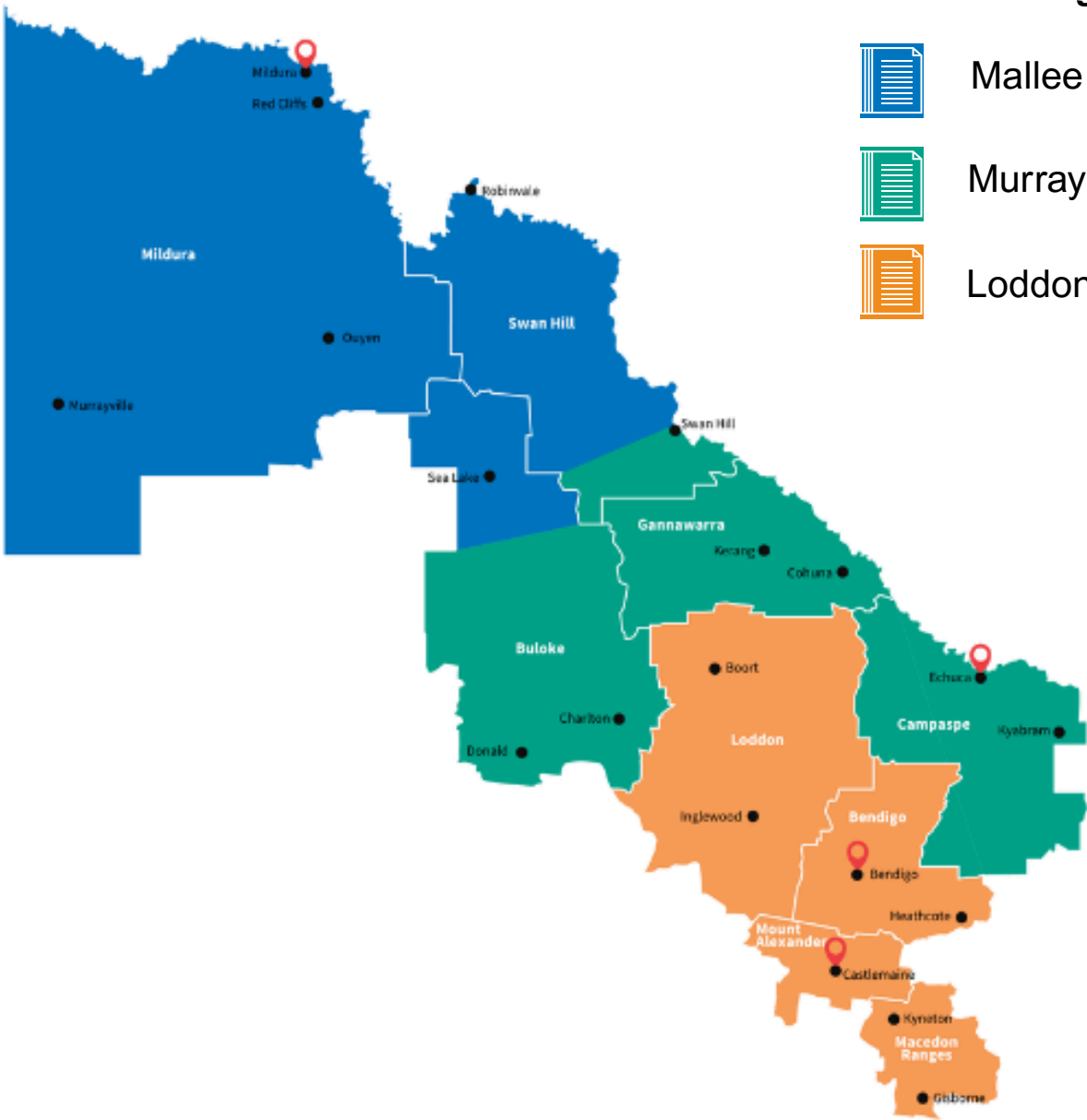
By adapting and tailoring the identified priorities, mental wellbeing, healthy food systems, and climate change and health, the LMPHU ensures responses are locally relevant and effective.

This work is underpinned by a strong partnership approach, drawing on the expertise of stakeholders who hold specialist knowledge and deep understanding of their sectors and communities.

The Sub-regional teams in the Loddon, Mallee and Murray provide an update to the Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Sub-Committees.

These updates give a more detailed account of the prevention work that is happening at a local level.

Click on icon to view sub-regional reports:



Mallee Report



Murray Report



Loddon Report



# 7. Health Protection 2024-25

The Health Protection team operates as part of a LPHU networked system across Victoria, responding to infectious disease cases investigations, outbreaks and public health programs that impact the Loddon Mallee region.

The unit works closely with local health services, primary and community health services, state government agencies and local government, providing surveillance and intelligence in response to notifiable conditions, environmental health threats and emergencies within the Loddon Mallee region.

## 7a. Notifiable disease management

The Department of Health's surveillance system monitors and reports cases of 86 different notifiable conditions.

For the 2024-25 financial year, in the Loddon Mallee, there were 7,639 notifications classified as either confirmed or probable, based on clinical laboratory and epidemiological evidence.

The data collated as part of the state's surveillance program enables:

- identification of disease trends in the community, which may signify clusters or outbreaks
- tracking trends of disease incidence in the population
- Identification of at-risk populations

Notification data supports the LMPHU to inform:

- local control and prevention measures
- community education and awareness
- planning of services and priority setting

The total count of notifications has been increasing each year since the pandemic. These increases are likely impacted by several factors including (but not limited to) the largest statewide pertussis outbreak since 2011, delayed diagnosis of certain conditions during the pandemic, population growth and changes in testing and reporting behaviours.

The June to July months sees the highest volume of notifications, with April the least. Vaccine Preventable Diseases were the majority of notifications across all months (this condition group includes (but not limited to) Influenza, COVID-19, RSV and Pertussis), with a peak observed to align with seasonal risk associated with Winter months.

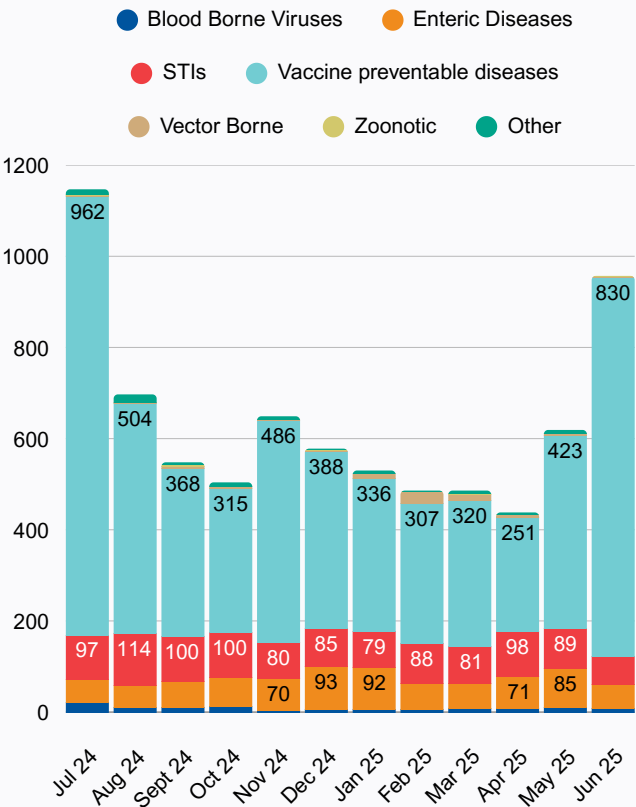
Notably, the Loddon Mallee reported the lowest rate per 100,000 population of notifications among all LPHUs in Victoria.

In the 2024-25 period, two additional conditions were added as notifiable, *Vibrio Parahaemolyticus* and Avian Influenza.

### Notifiable conditions in the Loddon Mallee

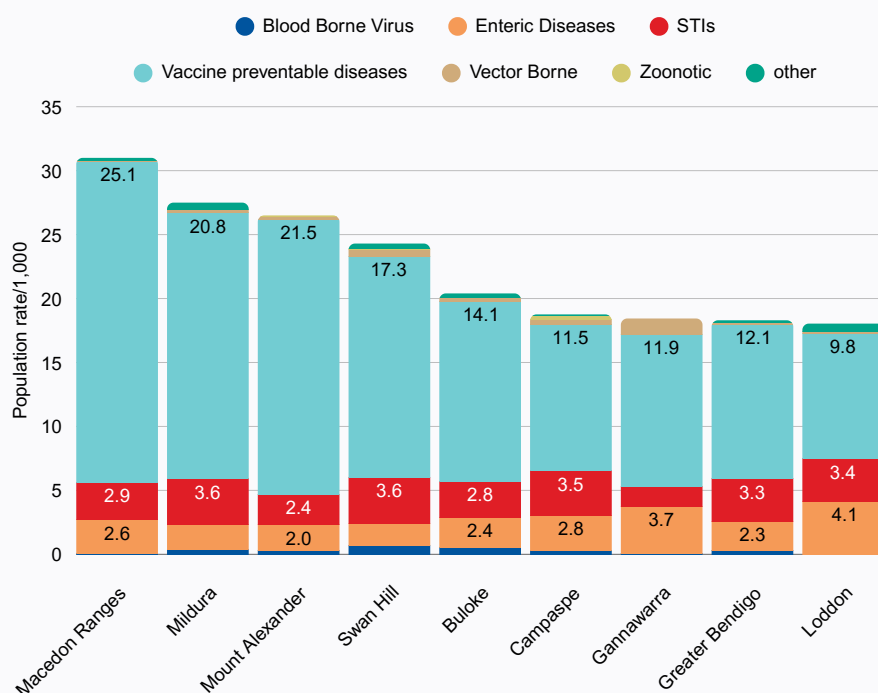
- 7,639** confirmed and probable notifications reported
- 2,336** cases requiring investigation and public health action
- 19%** increase in cases investigated from previous year

### Notifications according to condition groups



Total notifications (confirmed and probable) in the Loddon Mallee for the 2024-25 financial year. Note: not all single incident case require investigation.

## Notification rates by LGAs and condition groups



Confirmed and Probable case rates per 1,000 persons by LGA, July 1 2024 - June 30 2025, for the Loddon Mallee region

## Overall Loddon Mallee

Macedon Ranges had the highest rate (per 1,000 people) of all condition groups in the Loddon Mallee, with Loddon reporting the lowest.

## Vaccine Preventable

Across all LGA's vaccine preventable diseases (VPD) are the highest rates of confirmed and probable notifications. Macedon Ranges had the highest rate (25.1) of VPD's, with Loddon reporting the lowest (9.8).

## Sexually Transmitted Disease

STI's - Mildura and Swan Hill had the highest rate (3.6) in the Loddon Mallee, with Gannawarra reporting the lowest (1.6).

## Enteric Diseases

Enteric notification rate was highest in the Loddon LGA (4.1), with Swan Hill reporting the lowest (1.7).

## Collaboration

The LMPHU led collaborative efforts to address Japanese Encephalitis and Q Fever through targeted education, vaccination promotion, and improved access. Working with local councils, health providers, and community organisations, LMPHU raised awareness, distributed repellent, and addressed barriers to Japanese Encephalitis vaccination.

For Q fever, LMPHU partnered with clinics and industry stakeholders to deliver accessible vaccination clinics for high-risk workers. These initiatives showed that cross-sector collaboration, tailored communication, and local insights are essential to overcoming barriers and achieving better public health outcomes in preventing mosquito-borne and Zoonotic diseases in the Loddon Mallee region.

## Capacity building

### Workforce capability

The LMPHU developed, in collaboration with other Public Health Units across the state, 47 e-learning modules supporting workforce capability and are available to all staff and our regional health services on the GOLD education platform.

They cover the range of notifiable conditions, such as, hepatitis, mosquito borne conditions including Japanese and Murray Valley Encephalitis, Measles, Mpox, and Syphilis, as well as urgent rare and exotic conditions.

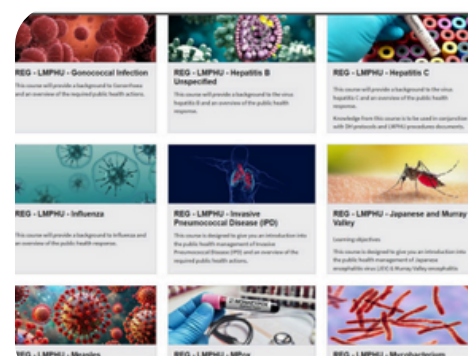
The modules cover the epidemiology of the condition, clinical presentation, testing requirements and control measures or public health actions related to notifiable communicable diseases that the LMPHU manages.

## Case studies

- [Q Fever](#)
- [Japanese Encephalitis](#)

## FLOOD AND MOSQUITOES

Here's what you need to know



Pictured: The range of diseases covered by the GOLD modules

## Community information

The LMPHU attend community events and festivals to support communities to better understand and respond to public health challenges by sharing information, promoting healthy behaviours and building trust through meaningful engagement. Resources have been developed for distribution. These include:

- [Heat Health](#)
- [Mosquitoes](#)
- [Bats](#)
- [Enjoy Summer Safely](#)
- [Stay healthy these holidays](#)
- [Keeping warm in Winter](#)

## Communication

Effective communication ensures timely and relevant information is shared, enabling informed decision-making and reinforcing trust across stakeholders and communities. An example of one of our communication campaigns is the **Winter wellness campaign**.

### Winter wellness campaign

Following “a significant” flu season in 2024, the LMPHU have ramped up education on prevention this Winter season. The Loddon Mallee region recorded 2,500 influenza notifications last year, with 24% of them being in children under 10 years of age.

The state saw more than 72,000 notifications, which is the most ever recorded and more than the 20,000 recorded the year before. There were also almost 200 deaths directly related to influenza infections. The usual suspects are in focus during the winter months, flu, COVID-19 and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV).

The LMPHU developed a Winter Campaign in response, key population groups including residential care facilities, under-fives, Indigenous Australians and multicultural communities.

Through consultation with partners, a lack of resources in common languages used across the Loddon Mallee region was identified. It was a priority to provide resources in language, and the Translated Resources Project was developed.

In partnership with Bendigo Community Health Services a video and flyer were created for the Karen and Dari community. LMPHU worked with Bendigo Health’s interpreter service to develop resources in 11 common languages in the Loddon Mallee region.

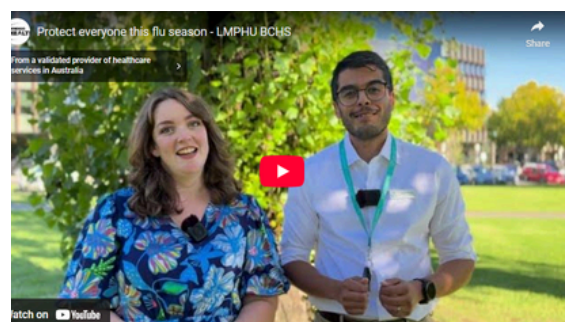
The LMPHU continues to provide support to clinicians and residential care services with education and resources to help them prepare, prevent and manage an outbreak.

More information and updated resources can be found on the LMPHU website: [Bendigo Health Website - Winter Wellness](#)



### Communication campaigns

- [Enjoying Summer Safely](#)
- [Mosquito-borne diseases](#)
- [Winter Wellness](#)
- [Environmental Health](#) (Heat health, Bats, Thunderstorm Asthma, Sun Safety)



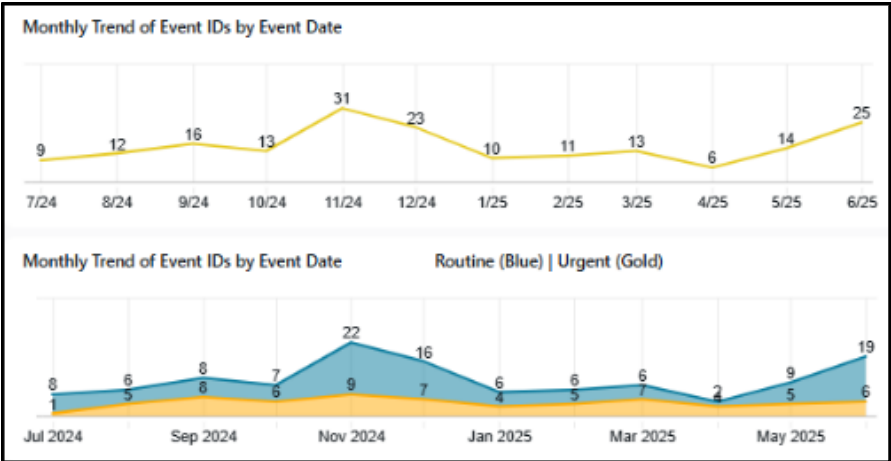


# 7b. Outbreak management

During the same period, 198 outbreaks were notified across the region. Most reported outbreaks occurred in Aged Care and Childcare settings, with COVID-19 and food/water borne illnesses being the most frequent reported causes. Note, there are different reporting requirements in different settings.

## Key Findings:

- Residential Aged Care had the highest number of outbreaks, primarily due to:
  - COVID-19 (77 outbreaks)
  - Influenza (23 outbreaks)
  - RSV (15 outbreaks)
- Childcare centres: 52 (53 total outbreaks) caused by Food/Water Borne illnesses.
- Education settings: outbreaks were all due to Pertussis.
- Farms: 2 Q-Fever outbreaks



Count of Outbreaks within the Loddon Mallee catchment, July 1 2024 – June 30 2025

Setting	Covid-19	Influenza	Pertussis	RSV	Q fever	Food/water Borne	Total
Residential Aged care	77	23		1		15	116
Childcare			1			52	53
Education			24				24
Farm					2		2
Disability service		1					1
Hospital/ healthcare	1						1
Total	78*	24	25	1	2	67	198**

\*15 outbreaks added from TREVI due to surveillance system change to PHESS

\*\*There was 1 Antimicrobial Resistant organism outbreak that the setting was not recorded in.

- 198 outbreak notifications
- 116 outbreak notified in aged care facilities
- 53 outbreak notified in child care centres
- 24 outbreak notified in education centres

## Quality Spotlight

Through consultation with local council and Residential Care Facilities, the following resources have been developed to support outbreak management:

- [Gastroenteritis Factsheet - Aged Care Facilities](#)
- [Gastroenteritis Factsheet - Children Services Facilities](#)
- [Case list - YYYYMM Care Facility - PHESS ID - DDDMMYYYY](#)
- [Case list - YYYYMM Childcare - PHESS ID - DDDMMYYYY](#)
- [Respiratory Preparedness Checklist](#)
- [Quick Reference Guide for Updated Respiratory Outbreak Guidelines](#)
- Curated Winter Stakeholder packs developed for Supported Care Facilities, including Residential Care and Disability Services and Early Learning Centres
- Quality Improvement Outbreak Management

## Collaboration

- The LMPHU collaborated through shared learning of outbreak investigation, on priority projects or engaged on prevention activities with over 335 individuals across 10 different organisations across the Loddon Mallee region.
- The LMPHU shared key learnings from a listeria outbreak response statewide to the Environmental Health Professionals Australia symposium and local councils in the Loddon Mallee region.

## 7c. Emergency management

The LMPHU supports the Department of Health within the Victorian emergency management sector, by working with the community and partnering agencies to identifying local risks to human health and providing place-based activities to reduce the risk and consequences associated with emergency events.

This response will vary depending on the event, the needs of community, and the Department of Health. As part of a networked public health system, the LMPHU provide increased opportunities for place-based activities to reduce the risk and consequences associated with emergency events.

The LMPHU participates in multiple regional networks to support emergency preparedness and planning activities, including municipal and regional emergency management planning committees.

The LMPHU maintain awareness of local emergency health risks within the Loddon Mallee region through connection with emergency response agencies and support organisations. The health protection team provide support by:

- providing intelligence and support for identified risks

- maintaining internal readiness to rapidly and effectively respond to emergency management risk supporting department of health led activities
- LMPHU are strengthening networks, providing intelligence and building systems to rapidly amplify messaging

### Capacity Building

- The LMPHU attended the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee.
- Provided written public health reports for emergency event planning for major events
- Shared learnings from other Local Public Health Units with local agencies and organisations on Avian influenza Preparedness
- Utilised our shared LPHU network and provided developed translated resources to support prevention education to workplaces
- Provide public health advice to local emergency management teams



## 8. Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Explanation
ACCHO	Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations
ASSIST	Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training
HALT	Hope Assistance Local Tradies
HFS	Healthy Food Systems
HLC	Healthy Loddon Campaspe
IDAHOBIT	International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia, and Transphobia
LGA	Local government area
LMPHU	Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit
LPHU	Local Public Health Unit
PCPH Advisory Sub-Committees	Primary Care and Population Health Advisory Sub-Committees
RSV	Respiratory syncytial virus
SHDH	Swan Hill District Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
VPD	Vaccine Preventable Diseases
WHLM	Women's Health Loddon Mallee
YMFA	Youth Mental Health First Aid





Loddon Mallee  
Public Health Unit