



# LMPHU Stakeholder Evaluation Survey Results 2026



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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Produced by Bendigo Health, Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit.  
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# Executive Summary

The 2026 Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU) Stakeholder Evaluation Survey received 69 responses from 285 invited stakeholders (24%), representing a broad range of organisations across the region.

Overall feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 95% of respondents agreeing that the LMPHU strengthens collaboration and builds sector capability, while 92% rated communication as timely and relevant. Stakeholders valued opportunities for networking, shared learning and collective action, while identifying opportunities to strengthen consumer engagement, data sharing and access to common resources.

The LMPHU will respond by embedding the new governance model, enhancing engagement opportunities and supporting improved information and resource sharing across the region.

## LMPHU Strategic Objectives

Focused objectives to protect communities, strengthen capability and promote equitable population health.

|                   |                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Communication     | Position LMPHU as a trusted voice on public health and population health issues.                                                           |
| Collaboration     | Collaborate with stakeholders to harness knowledge and diverse perspectives, identifying place-based solutions that improve public health. |
| Capacity Building | Strengthen workforce capability and capacity to support effective public health practice across the region.                                |
| Health Protection | Protect communities from preventable conditions, emergency incidents, and environmental risks.                                             |
| Population Health | Promote healthy, resilient communities and reduce the burden of disease through equity-focused, place-based initiatives.                   |

## Introduction

In June 2026, the Loddon Mallee Public Health Unit (LMPHU) invited stakeholders to participate in its annual stakeholder evaluation survey. The survey provides an opportunity for stakeholders to share their experiences, perspectives and feedback on their engagement with the LMPHU.

Your feedback is being used to understand how we can strengthen our engagement with our stakeholders and support the implementation of our shared public health priorities. These priorities aim to strengthen regional capacity, improve coordination across sectors and support earlier prevention of illness and diseases.



**285**  
Invitations issued



**69**  
Responses received



**24%**  
Response rate



**95%**  
Positive feedback

## Survey Distribution

This year we extended our reach and invited the following to complete the survey:

- Members of the Primary Care and Population Health (PC&PH) Committees
- Members of LMPHU chaired or led Networks and Working Groups
- Health Protection stakeholders (case and outbreak management)

## Response Rate

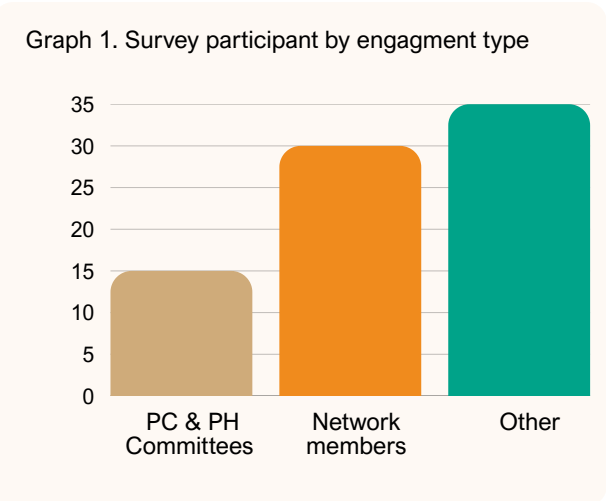
The number of responses provides a representative snapshot of stakeholder perspectives from across the region. A total of 285 invitations were issued, with 69 stakeholders completing the survey, resulting in a 24% response rate.



# Who Responded

## Participation by engagement type

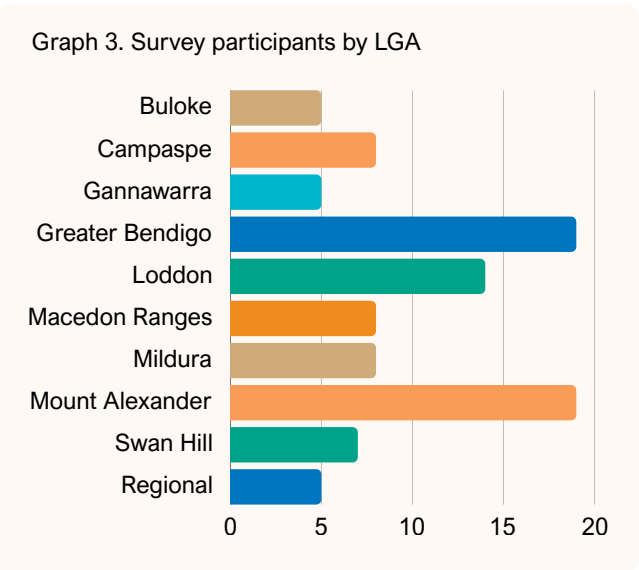
There were responses from all four PC&PH Committees and 13 of the 17 Networks / Working Groups led by the LMPHU (table 2). A further 35 respondents came from stakeholders engaged outside of formal advisory committees or networks engaged with health protection, noting some people may have responded for all three sections.



## Participation by geography

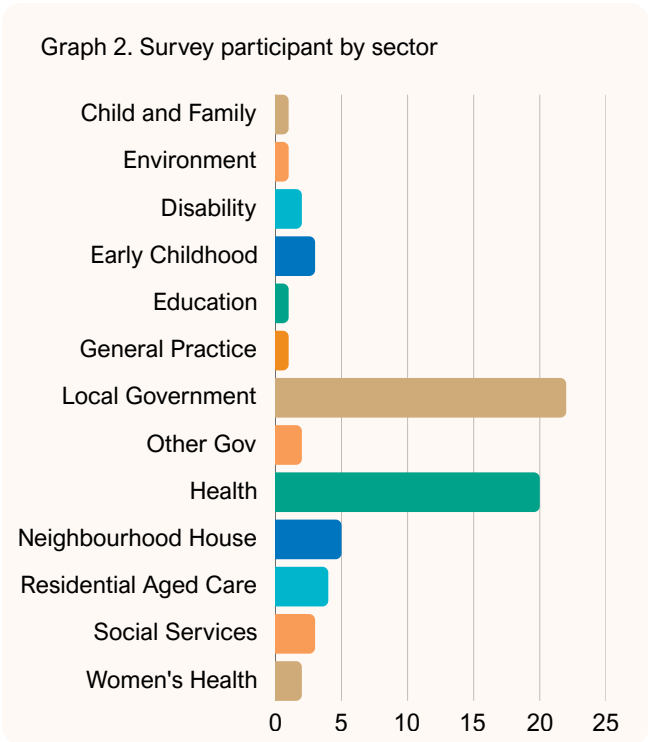
Survey respondents represented organisations working across all local government areas (LGA) within the Loddon Mallee region. Most respondents (76%) represented organisations that covered the City of Greater Bendigo, Mount Alexander and Loddon LGAs

*Note: respondents could choose multiple LGAs.*



## Participation by sector

Responses were received from a diverse range of stakeholders across the Loddon Mallee region. The largest proportion of respondents represented Local Government (32%) and Health Services (29%), accounting for more than 60% of all survey results.



Bendigo city centre, Greater Bendigo LGA

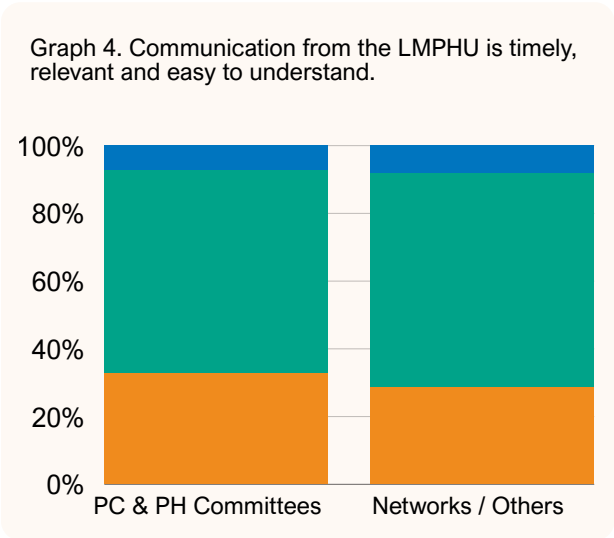
# Key Findings

Overall, stakeholder feedback was highly positive, with strong levels of agreement across all performance measures.

## Communication

**93% agreed or strongly agreed**

That communication from the LMPHU is timely, relevant and easy to understand.

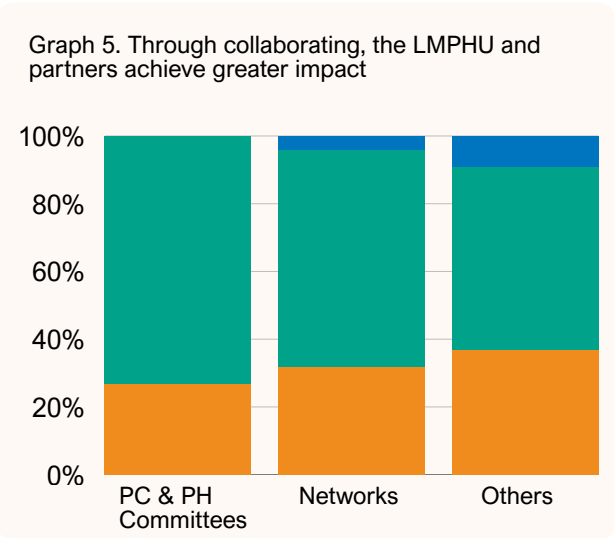


## Collaboration

**95% agreed or strongly agreed**

That collaboration through LMPHU networks leads to greater impact and improved outcomes across the region.

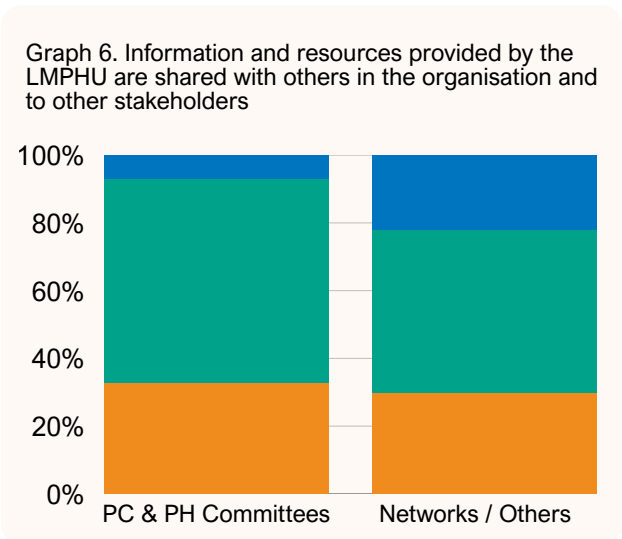
**100%** of participants would recommend an LMPHU led network to other stakeholders



## Sharing LMPHU information

**84% agreed or strongly agreed**

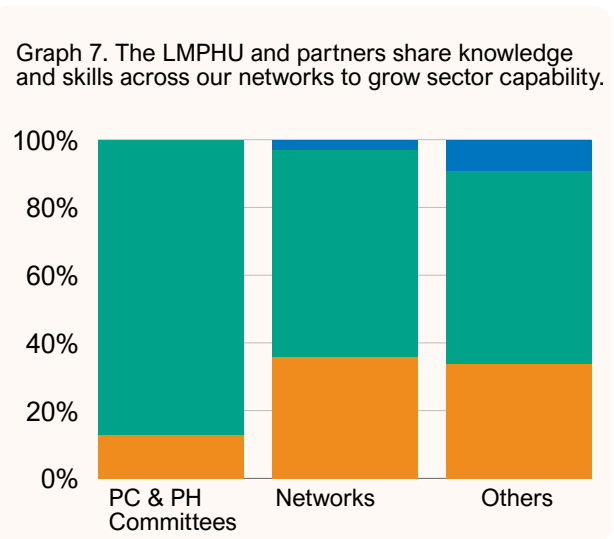
That information and resources provided by the LMPHU are shared with others in the organisation and with other stakeholders



## Capacity Building

**95% agreed or strongly agreed**

That the LMPHU and its partners effectively share knowledge and skills across networks to strengthen workforce capability and support best-practice public health approaches.



Legend: Strongly agree Agree Neither Disagree

## Trends Over Time

Feedback from PC&PH Advisory Committee members continues to improve across all measures. Results show sustained year-on-year improvement, with collaboration and capacity building reaching 100% positive agreement in 2026 and communication increasing to 93% positive agreement.

**93%**  
positive  
agreement

**Communication**  
Communication from the LMPHU is timely, relevant and easy to understand

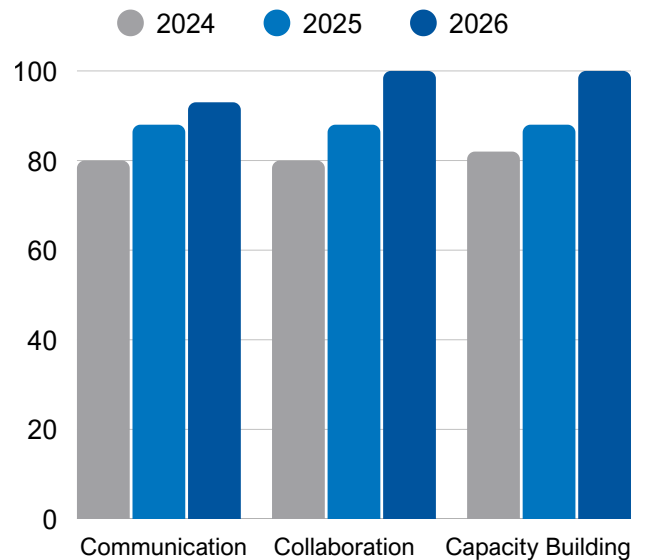
**100%**  
positive  
agreement

**Collaboration**  
Through collaboration, the LMPHU and partners achieve greater impact.

**100%**  
positive  
agreement

**Capacity Building**  
The LMPHU and partners share knowledge and skills across our networks to grow sector capability

Graph 8. PC&PH Advisory Committee Respondents, positive agreement



## What We Heard

Organisations operating across multiple sub-regions reported duplication and increased administrative burden due to being required to attend several Advisory Sub-Committees.

### How we responded

Following consultation with stakeholders, the LMPHU is transitioning from three sub-regions to a streamlined two-sub-region governance model. This change aims to reduce duplication, ease administrative load and resolve boundary misalignment.



### Governance

- The new two sub-region governance model will be more efficient for PC&PH Advisory Committee members.
- Review of terms of reference will provide the chance to update membership and meeting cadence.

### Collaboration

- Strong collaboration already exists across sectors, with opportunities to further increase impact and reduce duplication.
- There is greater need for shared priorities and resources including data, templates, and evaluation tools to support best practice and workforce capacity.
- Stakeholders value face-to-face meetings and networking opportunities to build relationships and encourage informal collaboration.
- Applying a stronger consumer perspective could further improve quality, relevance and clarity of initiatives.

## Next Steps

Based on stakeholder feedback, the LMPHU will:

- Continue implementation of the two sub-regions governance model
- Consider incorporating face to face meetings for formal networks into terms of reference where supported by members
- Explore mechanisms for regular information sharing between sectors and sub-regions
- Identify ways to strengthen the consumer voice in priority collaborations, capacity building and evaluation.
- Consider how we can better share data across all networks and continue to promote existing systems and pathways including our [Community Profiles](#) and [Health Services Dashboard](#)

## Thank you

Thank you to all stakeholders who participated in the 2026 Stakeholder Evaluation Survey. Your feedback is critical in helping the LMPHU strengthen partnerships, improve engagement and continue delivering collaborative public health outcomes across the Loddon Mallee region.





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