

MEDIA RELEASE

Community invited to have input into health planning

2 August 2023

The Gippsland community will play a vital role in helping to inform a major report on the health and wellbeing of the region.

Gippsland Primary Health Network (Gippsland PHN) has started work on its next Health Needs Assessment, due to be submitted in 2024 and is calling for nominations to join an advisory panel and be involved in the process.

A requirement from the Australian Government's Department of Health, the report assists Gippsland PHN to identify priority areas for a three-year period. It is built on current data, input from ongoing stakeholder consultation and learnings from the monitoring and evaluation of commissioning activities.

Gippsland PHN Acting Chief Executive, Angela Jacob, said as well as providing data on a range of issues such as prevention, improved health services, main health issues and supporting people, the report captured feedback from the community.

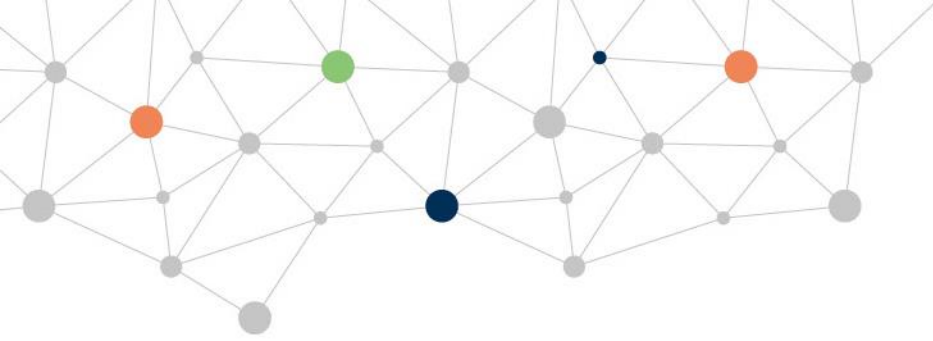
"People in Gippsland tell us about their lived experience across a range of areas which is important to identifying any service gaps," Mrs Jacob said.

"Population health planning is an ongoing activity at Gippsland PHN with the Health Needs Assessment a significant part of this work. We will use the information gathered to work with our partners towards our vision of a measurably healthier Gippsland."

Gippsland PHN is interested in hearing from a broad range of people for the advisory panel including people with insights about population groups with poorer health outcomes such as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, those experiencing disadvantage, living in rural and remote areas, people with a disability, people with a multicultural background and members of the LGBTIQ+ community.

"Panel members will advise on how we can improve the Health Needs Assessment," Mrs Jacob said. "We want to make sure the methodology is rigorous, transparent and identifies local priority health needs based on available data and information."

"The Health Needs Assessment is intended to be a platform for advocacy and work with partner organisations. By identifying shared priorities, we hope to see the most needed improvements addressed sooner and more effectively."



The information in the Health Needs Assessment is also made publicly available, so it can be used by other organisations in Gippsland. The most recent update of the Gippsland PHN Health Needs Assessment can be accessed [here](#). A summary of Gippsland PHN Priorities 2022-25 is also available.

To join the Health Needs Assessment Advisory Panel as a community member or organisation representative, sign up [here](#).

Community members with a broader interest in sharing their experiences and ideas with Gippsland PHN can also become a Community Contact. Go to the [Tell Gippsland PHN website](#) for more information or access a form to share your contact details [here](#).

For questions, contact Population Health Planner, Maria Garrett, at tellgippslandphn@gphn.org.au or phone (03) 5175 5444.

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For more information, contact Lynne Smith on 0437 918 234 or lynne.smith@gphn.org.au