

North Eastern Public Health Network – Population Health (NEPHN-PH)

Meeting 12

Chair: Annaliese van Diemen, Director

5th March, 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

NEPHU acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we work, live and play. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders, past and present. We recognise and honour the enduring connection that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have to this land, water and Community.



Artwork: The Gathering
Artist: Rubii Red

Chief Health Officer Alerts

Recent CHO Alerts and Advisories

- 27th January: [Increased heat-related health risks](#)
- 10th February (last updated 3rd March): [Increased risk of measles in Victoria](#)



NEPHU Measles Immunisation Program

- Working in partnership with EMPHN and NWMPHN.
- Measles campaign focused on adults born after 1966 who may not be fully vaccinated.
- Vaccines are provided via local healthcare providers
- NEPHU are currently developing translated resources
- Link to more information and resources:

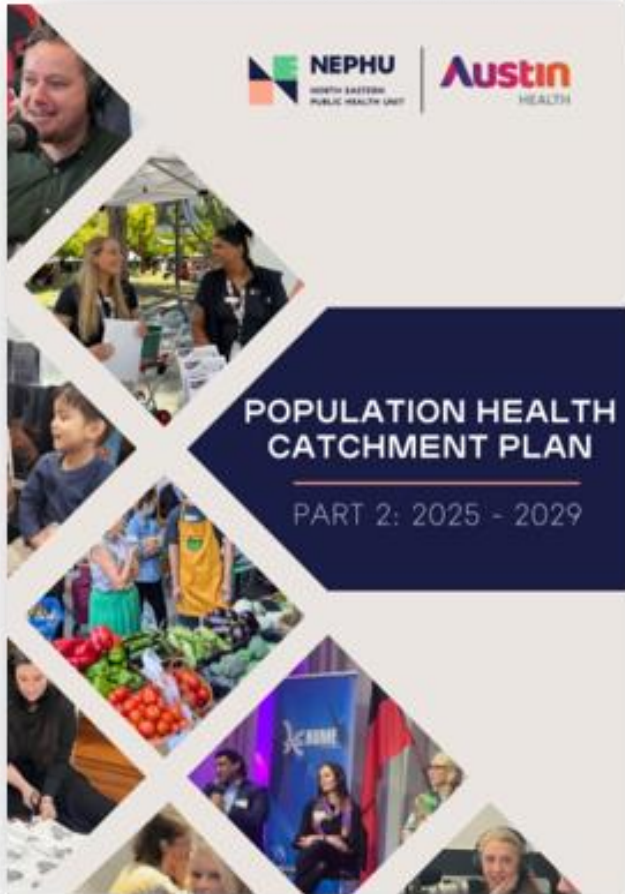
[Boosting measles vaccine coverage - NEPHU](#)



NEPHU Population Health Update

Mel Chisholm – Senior Manager, Population Health

NEPHU Population Health – Key Updates



Our four-year Population Health Catchment Plan (2025-2029) was successfully launched late last year, and our first annual implementation plan has now been developed in partnership with our Population Health Advisory Group.

This plan includes action across all five priority areas:

1. Improving sexual and reproductive health
2. Reducing harm from tobacco and e-cigarette use
3. Improving wellbeing
4. Increasing healthy eating
5. Increasing active living

Prevention United Training



- Capacity building delivered in partnership with PU over two sessions in February
- Focused on primary prevention and wellbeing
- 16 partner organisations represented

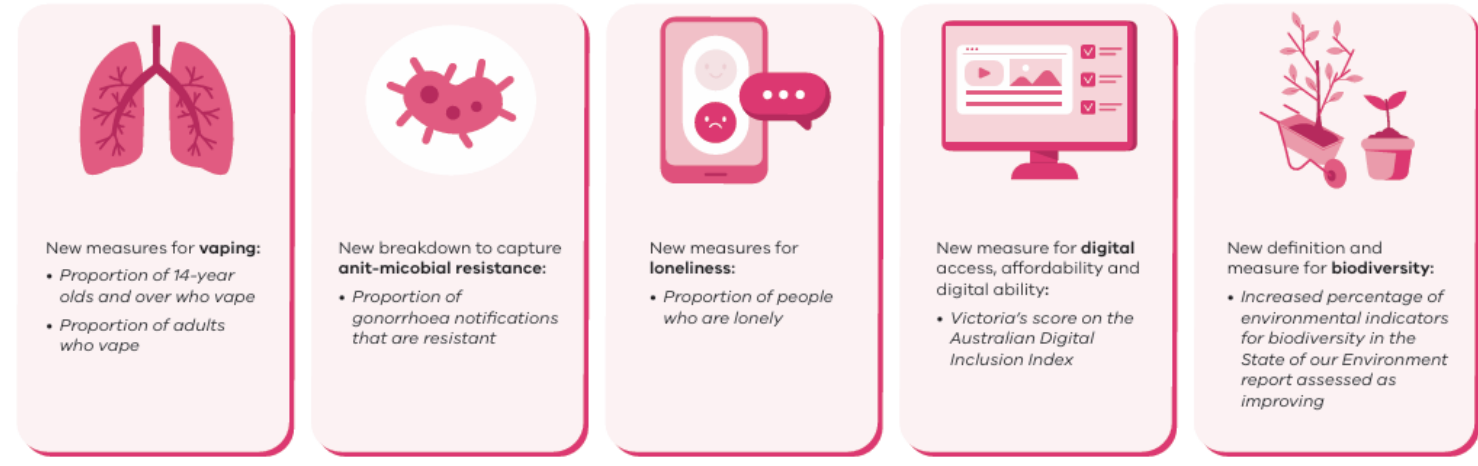
PREVENTION
UNITED

Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework 2025 (refreshed)

Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework 2025


Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework 2025

Figure 1. New measures introduced to the outcomes framework



Victorian public health & wellbeing outcomes framework 2025

Refreshed domains, outcomes and indicators

 **Population health and wellbeing in Victoria across the lifespan**

Outcome 1.1: Victorians enjoy high levels of physical health

- Increase healthy start in life
- Reduce premature death rates
- Reduce prevalence of preventable chronic disease
- Increase self-rated health
- Decrease unintentional injury
- Reduce preventable oral diseases
- Reduce antimicrobial resistance
- Increase sexual and reproductive health

Outcome 1.2: Victorians enjoy high levels of mental health

- Increase Victorians' experience of good mental health and wellbeing
- Decrease suicide and psychological distress

Outcome 1.3: Victorians are supported to protect and promote health

- Increase healthier eating
- Increase active living
- Reduce overweight and obesity
- Reduce smoking and vaping
- Reduce harmful alcohol and drug use
- Increase immunisation
- Reduce harmful sun exposure

 **Victorians experience social connectedness and community wellbeing**

Outcome 2.1: Victorians are safe and treated with respect

- Reduce prevalence and impact of abuse and neglect of children
- Reduce incidence of family violence
- Increase community safety

Outcome 2.2: Victorian communities are fair and inclusive

- Increase connection to culture and communities
- Increase access to social support

Outcome 2.3: Victorians are free from racism and discrimination

- Reduce all forms of racism and discrimination

 **Victorians have access to learning and development opportunities**

Outcome 3.1: Victorians have access to education, skills development and learning throughout life

- Decrease developmental vulnerability
- Increase educational attainment
- Increase Victoria's digital inclusion

 **Strong economic participation and stability in Victoria**

Outcome 4.1: Victorians participate in the economy

- Increase labour market participation

Outcome 4.2: Victorians have financial security

- Decrease financial stress

Outcome 4.3: Victorians have suitable and stable housing

- Decrease homelessness

 **Victorians have health-sustaining natural and built environments**

Outcome 5.1: Victorians belong to resilient and liveable communities

- Increase neighbourhood liveability
- Increase adaptation to the impacts of climate change

Outcome 5.2: Victorians have access to sustainable and safe built and natural environments

- Increase environmental sustainability
- Increase environmental quality

For more information, visit: [Victorian public health and wellbeing outcomes framework and data dictionary](#)

Please note: the [Public Health and Wellbeing Dashboard](#) is being updated in 2026 to align with the refreshed PHW Outcomes Framework.



SPOTLIGHT ON:
**Tobacco and vaping
in the north east**

Segment hosted by Mel Chisholm

NEPHU Tobacco & Vaping

Ameera Syed

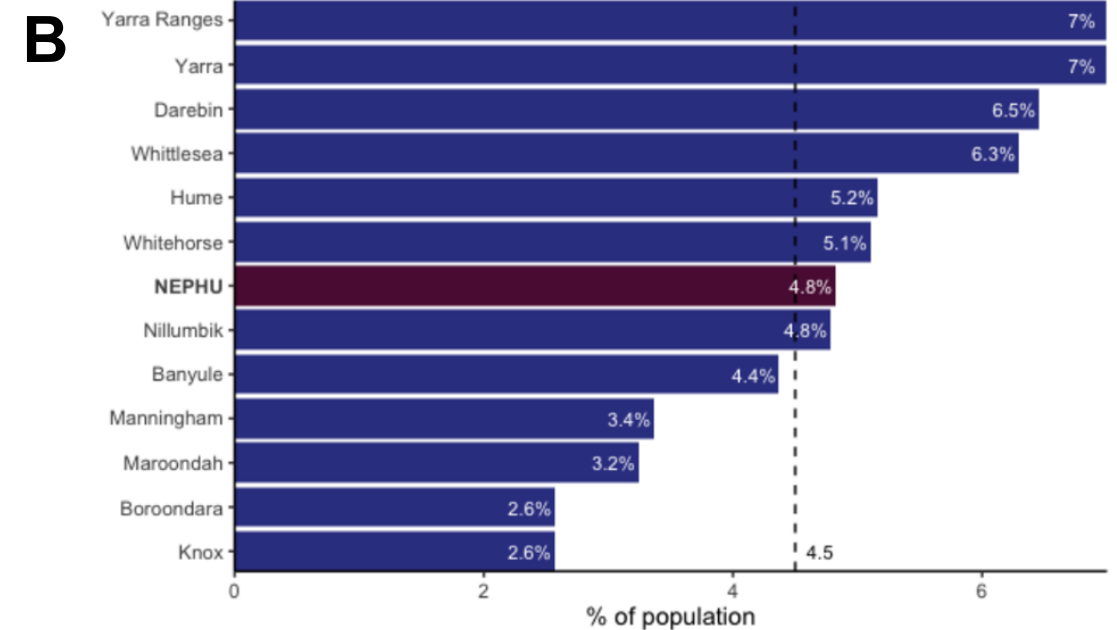
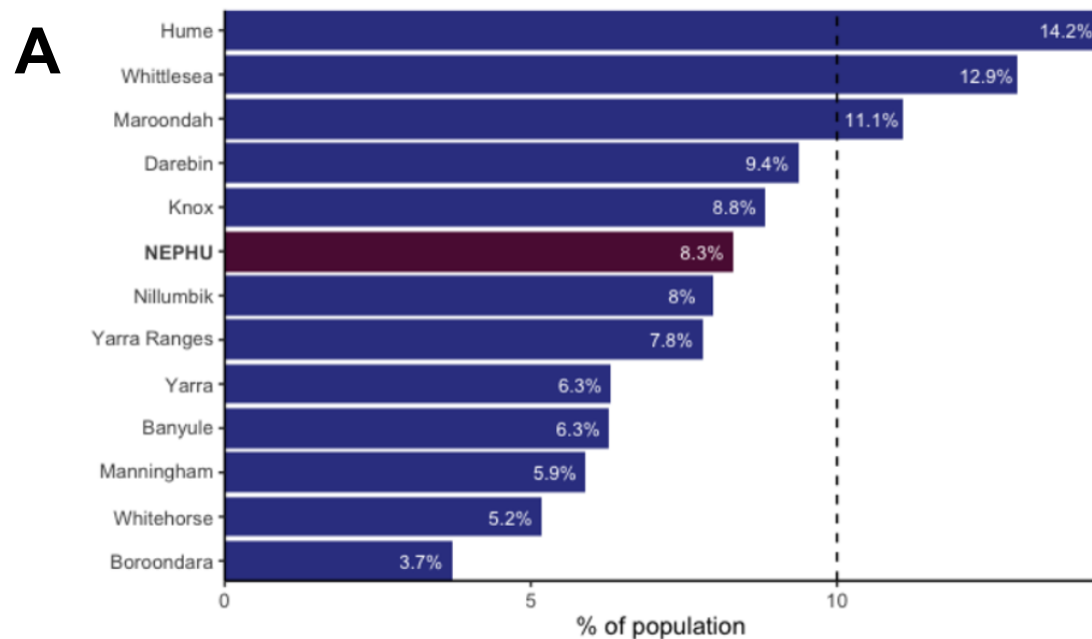
Health Promotion and Prevention Officer, NEPHU

Context

- Tobacco remains a **leading cause of disease burden** in Australia.
- Vaping is rising rapidly among young people.
 - **1 in 5** (21%) aged 18 to 24 and **1 in 7** (14%) aged 14 to 17 are currently vaping
 - Young people who vape are **3 times more likely** to smoke
- Exposure to second-hand smoke and second-hand e-cigarette emissions has significant short-term health effects.
- Growing evidence shows e-liquids are often **labelled incorrectly** and add to **environmental pollution**.
- Stakeholder feedback highlighted ‘tobacco and vaping’ as a priority, especially given **impact on high-risk groups**.

Data Snapshot across NEPHU

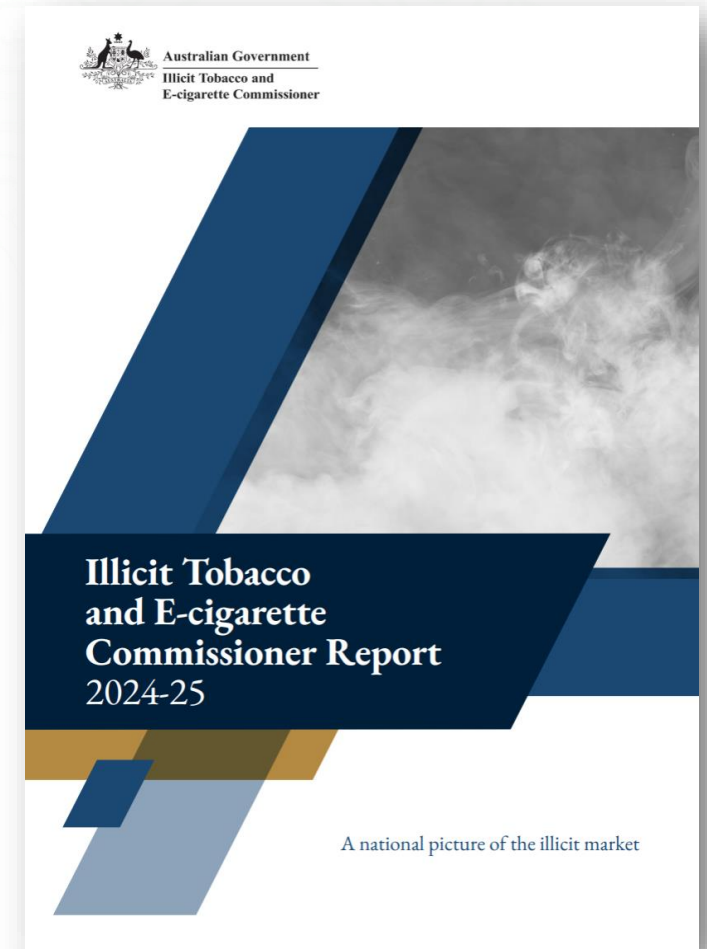
- **Daily smoking (A):** 8.3% across NEPHU (vs 10% Victoria), with the highest rates in Hume (14.2%), Whittlesea (12.9%), and Maroondah (11.1%).
- **Daily vaping (B):** 4.8% across NEPHU (vs 4.5% Victoria), with the highest rates in Yarra Ranges (7%), Yarra (7%), Darebin (6.5%), and Whittlesea (6.3%).



Data Source: [VPHS](#) 2023. Data notes: Dashed line represents Victorian average.

Impact of illicit trade

- Illicit tobacco and vapes are rapidly expanding
 - Up to **50% of all tobacco** sold.
- Products bypass regulations and controls - making public health initiatives even more critical to reduce prevalence.
- The illicit trade provides stable **funding for organised crime**.
 - Up to **\$12 billion** in tax revenue lost each year.
- Violence linked to the illicit market **threatens community safety**.
- Illicit vape products create significant **environmental waste** and **divert essential resources** from enforcement, health, and public services.



[Link to report](#)

NEPHU's Activities

Foundational activity in 2025–2026 to establish sustained progress over the next four years.

System Enabler Activities

- Annual communications plan
 - *Amplifying best practice and evidence-based policy, programs and initiatives*
- Sector & Service mapping
 - *Who's doing what in this space and how can we play a role*
- Exploring available data
 - *Can we find any more local/ granular data to inform and guide our work?*

Priority Area Specific Projects

- Promoting smoke and vape-free environments
- First Nations self-determined project related to tobacco and vaping



[Link to Population Health Catchment Plan Part 2: 2025-2029](#)

World No Tobacco Day 2026

Sunday 31st May 2026

2026 theme:

“Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction”



World Health Organization Health topics Our work Newsroom Data Emergencies About us

**World No Tobacco Day 2026:
unmasking the appeal –
countering nicotine and tobacco
addiction**

31 May 2026

World No Tobacco Day is marked annually on 31 May – bringing together governments, health organizations, civil society and youth from around the world to raise awareness of the threats of tobacco use and the tactics used by the tobacco industry, and to promote effective measures to end nicotine and tobacco addiction.

Related

World No Tobacco Day 2026: Unmasking the appeal – countering nicotine and tobacco addiction

[Link to WHO website](#)

Exploring potential for further collaboration



[Access form here](#)

Quit Tobacco & Vaping Sector Update

Heather O'Donnell

Community Systems Manager, *Quit Victoria*

Vaping prevention initiatives in community health - health promotion

Hannah Downes

Health Promotion Coordinator, *cohealth*

The Health Translations library: Best Practice Multilingual Health Promotion

Blossom Ah Ket

Health Translations Project Officer, *Centre for Culture, Equity and
Health (CEH)*

Panel Discussion

Adele Chenoweth

Coordinator, Commercial & Economic Systems team, *VicHealth*

Rebecca Gillie

Health Promotion Officer, *DPV Health*

David Sloggett

Quitline Counsellor, *Quitline*

Catchment News & Events

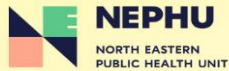
[Register here](#)



NEPHN-HP
Public Health Clinical Series

Topic in focus:
A public health perspective on
sexually transmitted infections

Date: Tuesday 17th March 2026
Time: 12:30 - 1:30pm



Hosted by NEPHU Director,
Dr Annaliese van Dieman



[Register here](#)

MONEY MATTERS



ONLINE 12 - 1PM FREE MONEY INFORMATION SESSIONS FOR WOMEN



- 11** March
Combating the Cost of Living
- 18** March
Maximise your Super & Insurance
- 25** March
Relationships and Money

Help is here

Free mental health and wellbeing support



Open near you



[Mental Health & Wellbeing Locals](#)



Next Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday June 4th, 2026

- ***Increasing healthy eating***

Reach out to us for any questions or feedback related to NEPHN-PH:
populationhealth.nephu@austin.org.au



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**NORTH EASTERN
PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT**