



COLLABORATIVE
AOTEAROA

**MODERNISING PRIMARY HEALTH:
MODELS OF CARE
THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

Papa Hou
Christchurch
27 and 28 March 2026

Conference Report



A message from our conference convener

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Modernising Primary Health: Models of Care that Make a Difference, the Collaborative Aotearoa 2026 Conference was held on 27–28 March 2026 at Papa Hou, Ōtautahi Christchurch, bringing together a diverse and committed community focused on strengthening whānau and community-centred primary health care across Aotearoa.

Across two days, the conference welcomed 161 attendees, featured 49 speakers, and was supported by 15 sponsors, including 12 organisations with exhibition stalls. Participants included primary care professionals, community health organisation kaimahi, government representatives, lived experience speakers, and health sector organisations, creating a rich environment for kōrero, learning, and connection.

The programme combined keynote presentations in the Black Box Theatre with dedicated breakout sessions each day. Breakouts were structured across three concurrent streams, with presentations aligned to the Pou Ora | Pillars of Health model of care, highlighting practical, innovative approaches already making a difference in communities. This structure enabled attendees to engage deeply with models of care grounded in equity, whanaungatanga, and real-world impact.

A highlight of the conference was the Whanaungatanga Dinner on Friday evening, where 60 participants came together to connect, sharing kai, kōrero, and celebration. This evening reinforced the relational foundations of Collaborative Aotearoa's work and the value of creating space for genuine connection across the sector.

This report provides an overview of the 2026 Conference and explores feedback that will be used to guide the future direction of Collaborative Aotearoa's conferences.

Ngā mihi,



Marama Buck

Collaborative Aotearoa – Strategic Project and Events Manager

Conference Overview

We were proud to host...

**161
attendees**



**49
presenters**



**20
keynote
speakers**



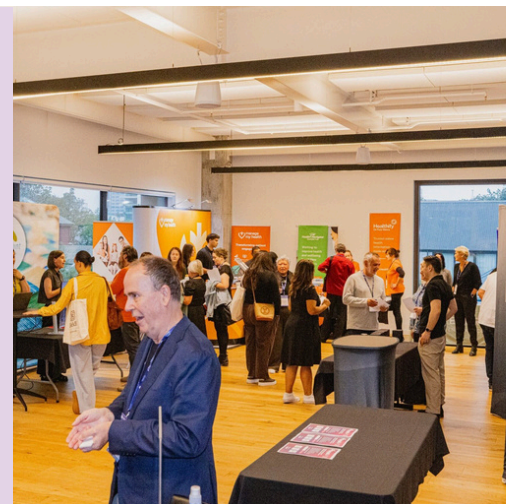
**2
inter-
national
presenters**



**19
breakout
sessions**



**14
sponsors**



Presenters and Programme Design

The kaupapa of our 2026 conference centred on models of care that are making a meaningful difference for kaimahi, whānau and communities across Aotearoa.

To bring this to life, speakers and presenters were selected through a combination of personal invitations and an open Expression of Interest (EOI) process. Contributors were asked to share how their kōrero aligned with the Pou Ora | Pillars of Health model of care, ensuring the programme was grounded in equity, modern approaches to care, and practical application.

The resulting programme reflected a breadth of the primary and community care sector, bringing together voices from frontline service delivery, leadership, lived experience, system design, research, policy, and government, each offering insight into how models of care can be strengthened to better serve our communities.



Lived Experience

The Collaborative Aotearoa lived experience advisor presenters, Tui Taurua and Debra Lomas, played a vital role in shaping the depth, relevance, and integrity of our conference programme. Their kōrero was deeply impactful and they offered insights that challenged assumptions and strengthened our collective understanding of what whānau-centred care could and should look like in practice. Collaborative Aotearoa is committed to actively elevating and embedding lived experience voices across all aspects of our work, recognising these perspectives as essential to designing, delivering, and sustaining health services that respond to community need. The inclusion of lived experience presenters at the 2026 Conference was a highlight for many attendees who mentioned that their kōrero was deeply impactful and powerful.



Sponsors and stall holders

The conference was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors, whose commitment reflects a shared interest in strengthening primary and community health care across Aotearoa. Our sponsors contributed not only financial support but also time, presence, and expertise, with many engaging directly with attendees through exhibition stalls, kōrero, and presentations.

Their involvement added depth to the conference experience, creating opportunities for connection, learning, and collaboration beyond the formal programme. Collaborative Aotearoa values sponsorships that are grounded in shared purpose, and we are grateful for partners who support kaupapa-driven conversations focused on equity, innovation, and models of care that make a genuine difference for whānau and communities.

Our valued 2026 conference sponsors



Post conference Survey Feedback

20 conference attendees completed the feedback survey

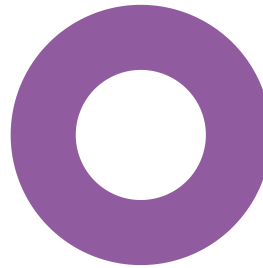
Overall, how satisfied are you with the event?



Average rating was 4.1

15 out of 20 survey participants rated it 5 stars

The event was well organised



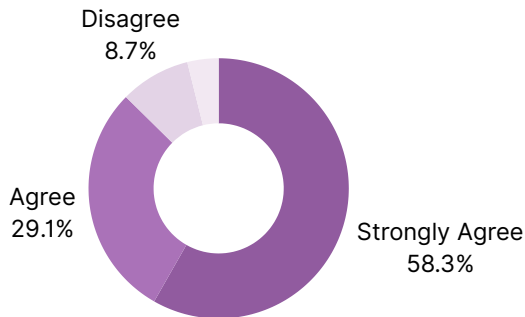
Strongly Agree
100%

The venue was suitable,
the food was great,
Christchurch is a good
location

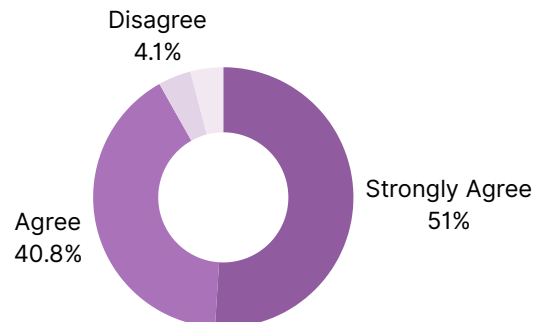


Strongly Agree
100%

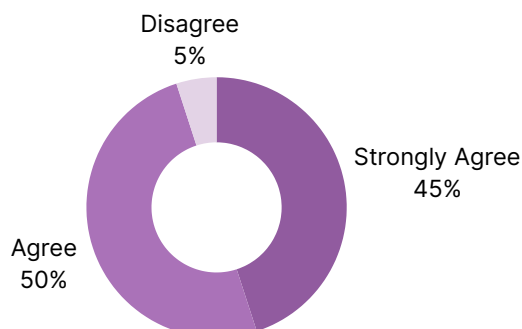
The event was successful



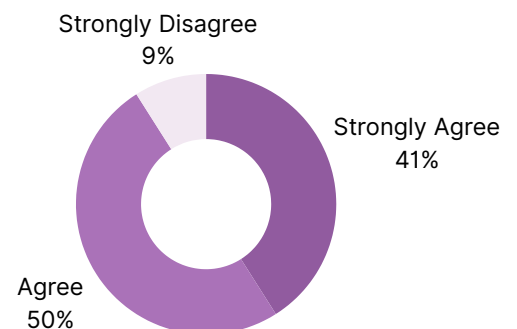
The cost of a conference ticket was reasonable



There was a wide selection of topics covered



There was a good mix of presentations and breakout sessions



Survey Feedback

Question: What did you like most about the conference?

Feedback from attendees highlighted four key themes:

1.

Connection, relationships, and whakawhanaungatanga

A consistent highlight was the opportunity to connect kanohi ki te kanohi—strengthening existing relationships and building new ones. The size and intimacy of the conference created space for meaningful conversations, networking, and a strong sense of shared purpose across the sector.

2.

High-quality, diverse, and inspiring speakers

Attendees valued the breadth and calibre of presenters, including standout sessions (e.g. AI panel, lived experience speakers, and keynotes). The mix of perspectives from frontline mahi to leadership to lived experience contributed to content being described as engaging, thought-provoking, and relevant.

3.

Practical innovation and future-focused content

There was strong interest in AI, digital tools, and innovative models of care. Sessions showcasing real-world applications (e.g. AI in ear disease detection) and practical frameworks were particularly well received, helping attendees think about how to apply learnings in their own mahi.

4.

Well-organised, welcoming, and energising experience

The overall experience, from organisation and flow to kai and atmosphere, was highly praised. Attendees described the conference as inspiring, inclusive, and energising, with a strong sense of manaakitanga and positivity throughout.

Reflection:

We are encouraged by the positive feedback on what attendees valued most, and it reinforces the elements we will continue to prioritise in future events. In particular, the strong sense of connection and whakawhanaungatanga, the calibre and diversity of speakers, and the focus on innovative and future-focused kaupapa such as AI and models of care were all highlighted as key strengths. Attendees also valued the overall atmosphere, described as welcoming, energising, and well-organised, which supported meaningful engagement and learning. We will look to build on these strengths, continuing to create spaces that bring people together, showcase impactful mahi from across the sector, and inspire practical change in primary and community care.

Survey Feedback

Question: How could the conference be improved?

Feedback from attendees highlighted four key themes:

1.

Programme design and content quality

Some feedback highlighted the need to refine programme structure, including fewer speakers with longer time allocations to enable depth and clarity. It was also noticed that some speakers were not clear on the length of time they had to share their kaupapa.

2.

Greater focus on practical, actionable learning

Two attendees are seeking more “how-to” content, including applied case studies, tools, and clear takeaways that can be translated into practice.

3.

Balance and breadth of content

The programme was perceived by some survey respondents as weighted toward AI and digital topics and suggested future conferences could achieve greater balance by increasing focus on hauora Māori, business and ownership, workforce, and broader models of care, ensuring diverse perspectives across the sector.

4.

Enhancing engagement and experience

Opportunities exist to improve interactivity and sharing, including longer breakout sessions, flexibility to move between sessions, and better integration of sponsors and networking spaces.

Reflection:

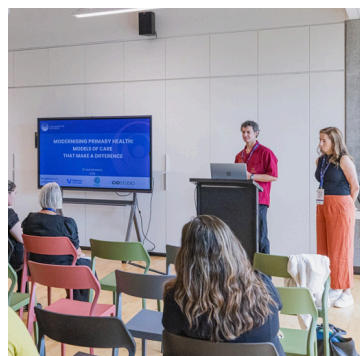
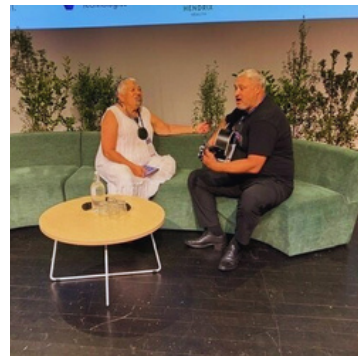
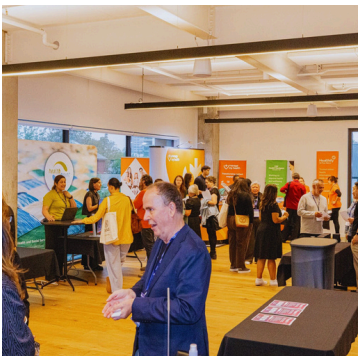
We appreciate the honest and constructive feedback on where we could do better, and we will use this to shape our future events. In particular, we will look more closely at refining programme design to allow greater depth and clarity in sessions, strengthening a stronger focus on practical, actionable takeaways, and ensuring a more diverse programme that reflects the full breadth of primary and community care.

We also recognise the opportunity to enhance interactivity and attendee engagement, including providing more time for discussion and flexibility within the programme.

A final thank you!

Ngā mihi nui to everyone who joined us. Your presence, openness, and willingness to connect are what made the conference so meaningful. We extend our sincere thanks to our Board of Trustees, our members, our advisory group, and CLEAR for your ongoing leadership, guidance, and support. To our speakers, sponsors, and vendors, thank you for your contribution, partnership, and for helping bring the conference to life.

We are grateful to each and every one of you.



Looking to the future

The conference created valuable opportunities for Collaborative Aotearoa to explore new collaborations, partnerships, and kaupapa, and we hope it did the same for you. The energy, ideas, and whanaungatanga shared across the two days will continue to shape our collective mahi as we progress models of care that make a difference for whānau and communities. As we look ahead, we remain committed to supporting our members with practical resources, learning opportunities, and spaces to connect and collaborate. If you would like to become a member, please get in touch.

Stay connected and keep up to date with our mahi through our pānui, social media, and website, including upcoming events.

We look forward to continuing this journey together.



Sign up to our
monthly Pānui

Check out our
new website

marama.buck
@collab.org.nz

ny.brunenberg
@collab.org.nz

jess.morgan-french
@collab.org.nz