



EQUESTRIAN
AUSTRALIA

National Member Survey

Summary of Key Findings

FEBRUARY 2026

Introduction

Equestrian Australia recently conducted a National Member Survey to better understand member experiences, priorities and views on the future of the sport.

The survey received **1,146 complete responses**, providing a strong evidence base to inform future planning.

This summary outlines the key findings, supported by the data.

Understanding the Percentages

Some questions in this survey allowed respondents to select more than one answer (for example, disciplines participated in, roles held, or the five biggest opportunities or risks).

For these questions:

- Percentages show the proportion of respondents who selected each option
- Totals will exceed 100%, because individuals could select multiple options

This approach reflects the reality that many members participate in multiple disciplines, hold several roles, or see more than one priority or risk.

Where questions required a single answer only, percentages total approximately 100%, allowing for rounding.

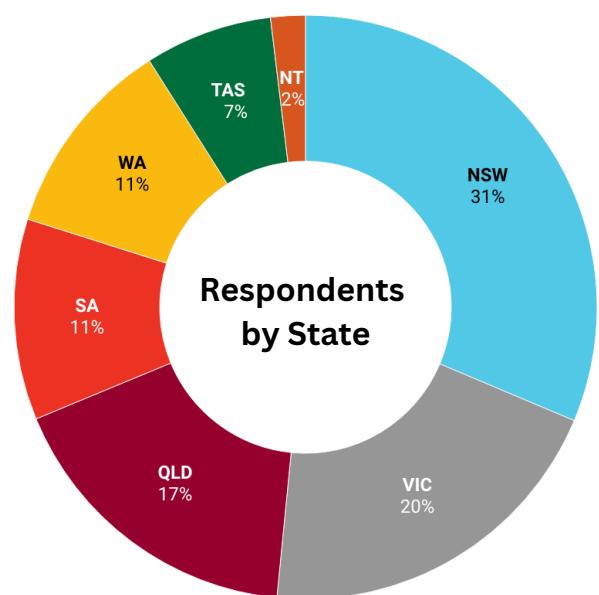
Who Responded

Geographic distribution

Responses were received from all

States and Territories:

- New South Wales: 360 respondents (31%)
- Victoria: 229 respondents (20%)
- Queensland: 198 respondents (17%)
- South Australia: 131 respondents (11%)
- Western Australia: 131 respondents (11%)
- Tasmania: 82 respondents (7%)
- Northern Territory: 15 respondents (2%)



Age Profile

- Under 18: 68 respondents (6%)
- 18–24: 63 respondents (5%)
- 25–34: 104 respondents (9%)
- 35–44: 126 respondents (11%)
- 45–54: 217 respondents (19%)
- 55–64: 318 respondents (28%)
- 65+: 250 respondents (22%)

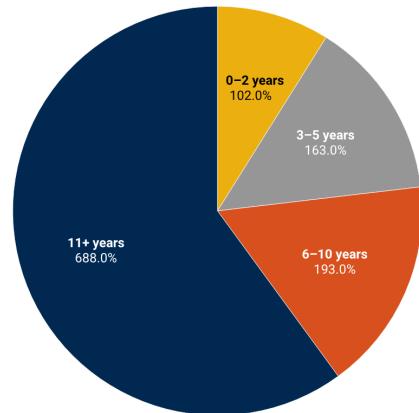
Gender

Woman or female: 1,015 respondents (89%)
Man or male: 111 respondents (10%)
Non-binary: 4 respondents (less than 1%)
Prefer not to say: 16 respondents (1%)

Disability

Yes: 70 respondents (6%)
No: 1,046 respondents (91%)
Prefer not to say: 30 respondents (3%)

Length of Membership



Length of Membership

- 0–2 years: 102 respondents (9%)
- 3–5 years: 163 respondents (14%)
- 6–10 years: 193 respondents (17%)
- 11+ years: 688 respondents (60%)

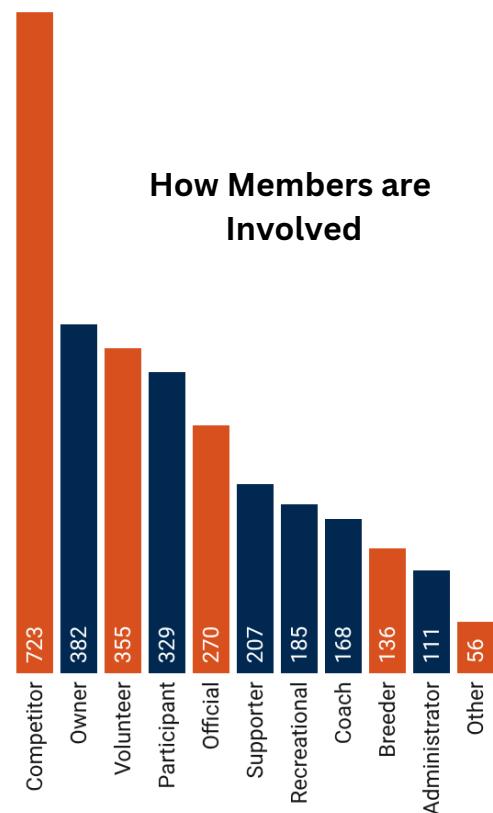
This shows a strong representation of long-term members.

How Members Are Involved (multi-select question)

Members reported multiple forms of involvement:

- Competitor: 723 respondents (63%)
- Owner: 382 respondents (33%)
- Volunteer: 355 respondents (31%)
- Participant: 329 respondents (29%)
- Official: 270 respondents (24%)
- Recreational rider: 185 respondents (16%)
- Supporter: 207 respondents (18%)
- Coach: 168 respondents (15%)
- Administrator: 111 respondents (10%)
- Breeder: 136 respondents (12%)
- Other: 56 respondents (5%)

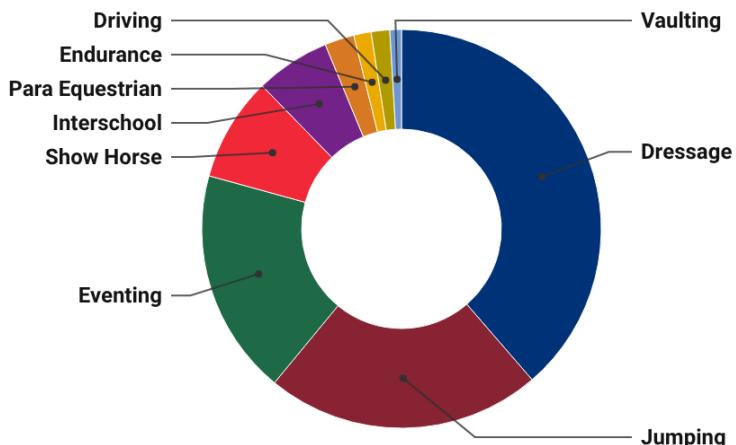
How Members are Involved



Disciplines Currently Participated In (multi-select question)

- Dressage: 825 respondents (72%)
- Jumping: 476 respondents (42%)
- Eventing: 391 respondents (34%)
- Show Horse: 180 respondents (16%)
- Interschool: 129 respondents (11%)
- Para Equestrian: 51 respondents (4%)
- Endurance: 30 respondents (3%)
- Driving: 32 respondents (3%)
- Vaulting: 20 respondents (2%)

Disciplines Currently Participated In

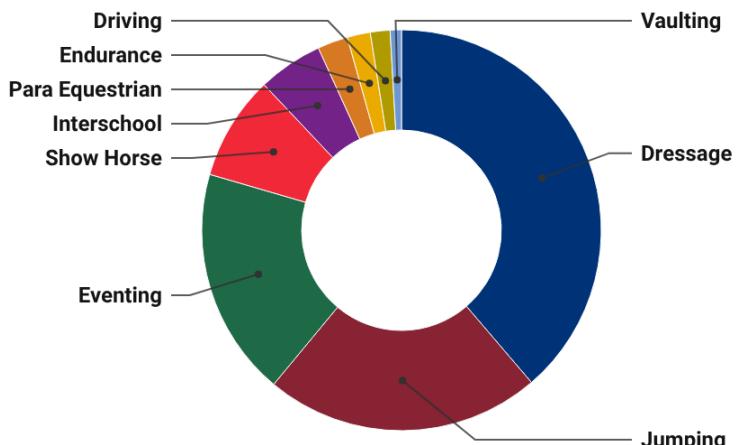


Disciplines Planned Over the Next Four Years (multi-select question)

Intentions closely mirror current participation:

- Dressage: 850 respondents (74%)
- Jumping: 490 respondents (43%)
- Eventing: 405 respondents (35%)
- Show Horse: 185 respondents (16%)
- Interschool: 115 respondents (10%)
- Para Equestrian: 54 respondents (5%)
- Endurance: 41 respondents (4%)
- Driving: 35 respondents (3%)
- Vaulting: 20 respondents (2%)

Disciplines Planned Over the Next Four Years

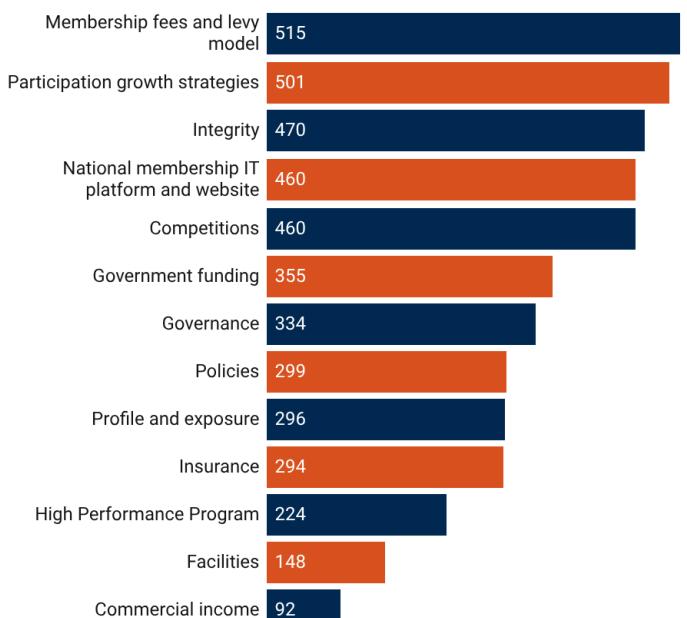


Opportunities for the Sport (multi-select question: select up to five)

The most frequently identified opportunities were:

- Membership fees & levy model: 515 selections
- Participation growth strategies: 501 selections
- Integrity: 470 selections
- National IT platform & website: 460 selections
- Governance: 334 selections
- Profile and exposure: 296 selections
- Insurance: 294 selections
- Commercial income: 92 selections
- Government funding: 355 selections
- Facilities: 148 selections
- High Performance Program: 224 selections
- Competitions: 460 selections
- Policies: 299 selections

Opportunities for the Sport

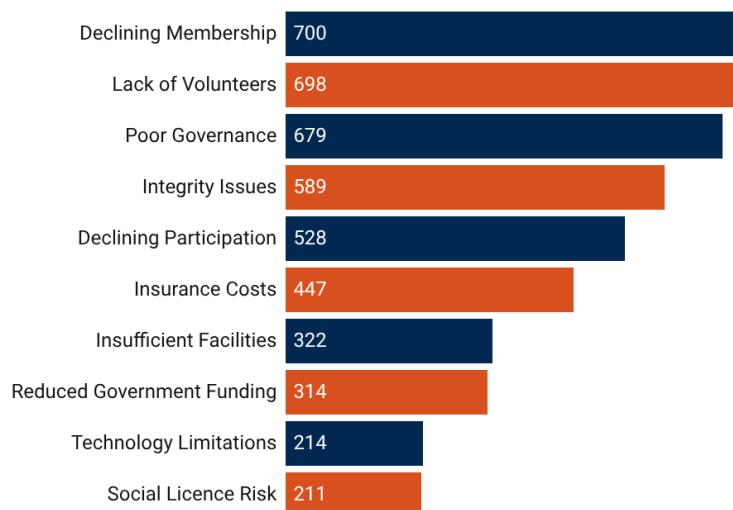


Risks Facing the Sport (multi-select question: select up to five)

The most frequently identified risks were:

- Declining membership numbers: 700 selections
- Lack of volunteers: 698 selections
- Poor governance: 679 selections
- Integrity of the sport: 589 selections
- Insurance costs: 447 selections
- Declining participation numbers: 528 selections
- Technology limitations: 214 selections
- Reduced government funding: 314 selections
- Insufficient facilities: 322 selections
- Social licence to operate: 211 selections

Risks Facing the Sport



What Members See as Most Important (scale of 1–10)

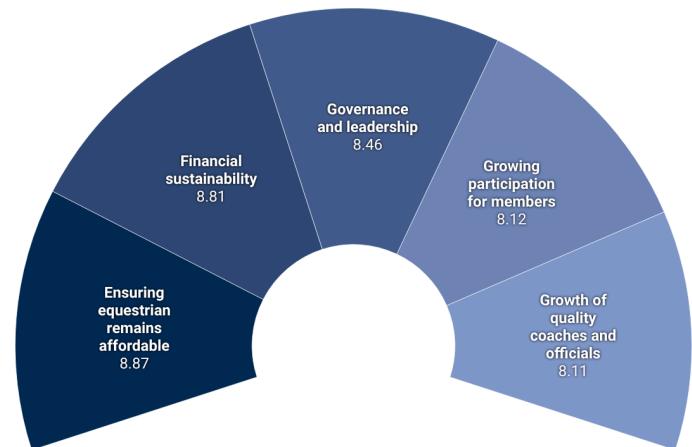
Highest-rated priorities:

- Ensuring equestrian remains affordable: 8.87
- Financial sustainability: 8.81
- Governance and leadership: 8.46
- Growing participation for members: 8.12
- Growth of quality coaches and officials: 8.11

Lowest-rated priority:

Securing opportunities for under-represented groups: 5.61

What Members See as Most Important



Participation and Growth

Participation was rated as a high priority by:

- 701 respondents (61%)

When asked whether to focus on growth or service:

- Both equally: 562 respondents (49%)
- Improving service: 279 respondents (24%)
- Increasing participation: 101 respondents (9%)
- Neither: 6 respondents (less than 1%)

Participation and Growth



Volunteers

- High priority: 717 respondents (63%)
- Medium priority: 195 respondents (17%)



When asked whether to focus on new or existing volunteers:

- Both equally: 680 respondents (59%)
- Engaging new volunteers: 169 respondents (15%)
- Developing existing volunteers: 82 respondents (7%)

Performance and Pathways

- National team performance rated high or medium by 612 respondents (53%)
- Efficient national athlete pathways rated high or medium by 754 respondents (66%)

What the Results Show

The Member Survey shows that members:

- Are involved across multiple roles and disciplines
- Value affordability and financial sustainability above all else
- Want participation growth balanced with service quality
- See governance, integrity and volunteers as critical foundations
- Represent all States, Territories and disciplines, including smaller cohorts

These insights will help inform future planning and decision-making across Equestrian Australia and the State and Territory Branches.

