

<b>Role title</b>	Health & Harm Reduction Worker - Victoria
<b>Role kind</b>	Casual
<b>Hours</b>	Variable- Initially event based, then 5-20 hours per week
<b>Award</b>	SCHADS Level 5.1
<b>Pay Rate</b>	\$61.60 / hour
<b>Location</b>	<i>Victoria</i>
<b>Timing</b>	<i>Project concludes June 2026</i>
<b>Reports to</b>	Victoria Service Manager (Drug Checking Director)

### About The Loop Australia

The Loop Australia is a not-for-profit organisation established in 2018 to develop the sustainable provision of drug checking services in Australia. We are a sister organisation to The Loop UK which formed in 2013 and has provided drug checking for the public since 2016. The Loop Australia has been a mostly volunteer-based organisation, with teams of chemists, health professionals and researchers based in Victoria, New South Wales and Queensland.

**Our Vision:** A safer society where everyone can access accurate, timely, and relevant information to make more informed decisions about drugs.

**Our Mission:** Deliver a world-class drug checking service and disseminate information about drugs to individuals, service providers and policy makers.

### Background

In 2024, the Victorian Health Minister announced the Victorian Government's support for the delivery of drug checking services. Victoria Health sought invitations from service providers to deliver services from both fixed locations and mobile locations (e.g. music festivals). A partnership led by Youth Support and Advocacy (YSAS) in partnership with Harm Reduction Victoria (HRVic), Melbourne Health (MH), Youth Projects (YP) and The Loop Australia (TLA) was successful and have been contracted to deliver the service. Service delivery commenced in Melbourne in December 2024, with Beyond the Valley Festival delivery to commence in the last week of December 2024, with the contract end date being June 2026.



# The Loop Australia

## Position Overview

The Health & Harm Reduction Worker provides brief interventions for people who have submitted substances for chemical analysis to the drug checking service. This position will join a small pool of casual Health and Harm Reduction Workers operating on a rotating roster.

## Duties and responsibilities of Health & Harm Reduction worker

- To explain the service including limitations of the service to people who intend to have their substances analysed, to ensure all service users are providing informed consent
- To provide results of chemical analysis contextualised for individuals taking account of medical conditions, prescribed medication interactions and polysubstance combinations
- To provide high quality harm reduction information and education in a non-judgemental and respectful manner
- To complete data entry relating to service delivery
- To provide referrals on to other health or welfare services, where service users are identified as requiring additional support
- To work alongside a multidisciplinary team including people with lived experience of drug use, chemists and other health and welfare workers

## Hours

- Casual shifts can range from 3 - 30 hours per week
- There may be some shifts that extend to early evenings or ( weekends
- Some service delivery will occur at festival locations

## Mandatory Qualifications

This role requires tertiary qualifications in one or more of the following disciplines:

- Medicine
- Nursing/ paramedicine
- Social Work
- Psychology
- Pharmacy
- Occupational Therapy
- AOD Counselling or equivalent
- AOD relevant qualifications

## Key Selection Criteria

- 1) Experience working with people who use alcohol and other drugs
- 2) Experience in delivering brief interventions including brief assessment, psycho-education, harm reduction education and referral
- 3) Highly developed engagement and communications skills with people from diverse backgrounds



- 4) Experience working in multidisciplinary teams
- 5) Experience using contemporary data collection systems

### **Desirable**

- 1) Direct practice experience in alcohol and other drug treatment / harm reduction settings.
- 2) Current first aid certificate
- 3) Current CPR certificate
- 4) Hold a current "C" class drivers licence

### **Guiding Principles and values**

The Loop requires all staff and volunteers to commit to the following principles and values.

#### **Guiding principles:**

- We collaborate towards shared goals
- Our services are informed by the people we serve
- We learn by generating, reviewing and applying evidence
- We work efficiently and adapt as situations change
- We do what's possible while working towards our vision

#### **Values:**

- Integrity
- Excellence
- Empowerment
- Inclusivity

**To apply for this role please send an email to [admin@theloop.org.au](mailto:admin@theloop.org.au) with the subject heading 'Victoria health and harm reduction worker'. Please include:**

- An overview of your qualifications and experience
- A one to two page statement that addresses the five key selection criteria
- A copy of your current CV

You can contact Sarah on [sarah@theloop.org.au](mailto:sarah@theloop.org.au) with questions about the role.

**Applications close COB Sunday 9th February 2025**