

<b>Role title</b>	Chemist - Victoria
<b>Role kind</b>	Casual
<b>Hours</b>	Variable- Initially event based, then 5-20 hours per week
<b>Award</b>	Professional Employees Award
<b>Pay rate</b>	\$50.11 p/h (Casual)
<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); Victoria Lead Chemist

### 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 2024, with Beyond the Valley Festival in the last week of December, with the contract end date being June 2026.



# The Loop Australia

## Position Overview

The Chemist is responsible for set up and operation of a mobile laboratory that comprises analytical components including ATR-FTIR, Portable GCMS, colourimetric reagent tests and fentanyl/Nitazine test strips. The position includes instructing service users in providing samples of substances for analysis, logging each sample, conducting analysis in line with the organisation's standard operating procedures and recording and communicating the results. The role involves providing the results of the chemical analysis to a Health and Harm Reduction Worker, who will in turn provide the results of the analysis to the service user. This position will join a small pool of casual Chemists who will operate on a rotating roster.

## Duties and responsibilities of Chemist:

- To set up and operate the mobile laboratory in line with the standard operating procedures, and the Poison Control Plan
- To instruct service users in providing samples of substances for analysis.
- To log each sample in a data collection system to ensure accurate records are maintained at all times
- To provide results of chemical analysis to Health and Harm Reduction Workers or to service users
- To work alongside a multidisciplinary team including people with lived experience of drug use, health workers and other support staff

## Hours

- Casual shifts can range from 5 - 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 a tertiary qualification in a science with a major in an approved area (as per the regulations\*)
- This role requires candidates to undergo a police check and a Working with Children Check as part of the recruitment process

## Key Selection Criteria

- 1) Experience in analytical chemistry, including knowledge and/or use of FTIR, mass spectrometry and wet laboratory techniques
- 2) Ability to work independently and quickly troubleshoot issues
- 3) Ability to communicate technical information and results to people from diverse backgrounds
- 4) Experience working in multidisciplinary teams
- 5) Experience following standard operating procedures
- 6) Experience applying strong data management practices



### **Desirable**

- 1) Knowledge of current and emerging drug trends
- 2) Experience working with scheduled substances and under a Poison Control Plan
- 3) Experience of field based laboratory work

### **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 chemist'. Please include:**

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

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

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

\*The regulations require a bachelor degree in, or with a major in, any of the following areas, however described – Chemistry, Pharmacology, Forensic science, Forensic toxicology, Applied chemistry, Medicinal chemistry, Industrial chemistry, Psychopharmacology, Biochemistry, Physiology, Biotechnology, Medical science, Molecular biology, Pharmaceutical science, Bio-nanotechnology, Nanotechnology, Biomolecular science, or Analytical science.