



The Loop Australia

Role title	Health & Harm Reduction Worker - Queensland
Role kind	Casual
Hours	3-10 hours per week
Award	SCHADS Award Level 5.1 - \$59.38
Location	<i>Gold Coast</i>
Timing	<i>Commencing 4th of July 2024 until project concludes 18th of April 2025</i>
Reports to	The Loop Australia Chief Executive Officer

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.

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

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

Background

In 2023, the Queensland Health Minister announced the Queensland Government's support for the delivery of drug checking services in Queensland. In late 2023, Queensland Health sought invitations from service providers to deliver services from both fixed locations and mobile locations (e.g. music festivals). A partnership led by the Queensland Injectors Health Network in partnership with QuIVAA and The Loop Australia were successful and have been contracted to deliver the service. Service delivery commenced in Brisbane in April 2024, with Gold Coast service delivery to commence in the first week of July 2024, with the contract end date being 18th of April 2025.



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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 who will operate on a rotating roster.

Duties and responsibilities of Healthcare & 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 poly-substance 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 - 10 hours per week
- There may be some shifts that extend to early evenings or (occasionally) weekends
- There may be very occasional instances where we may ask staff to cover shifts in the Brisbane service

Mandatory Qualifications

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

- Medicine
- Nursing
- Social Work
- Psychology
- Pharmacy
- Occupational Therapy
- AOD Counselling or equivalent



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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 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 that includes:
 - 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

Email: cam@theloop.org.au **with the subject heading 'Health and Harm Reduction Worker'**

You can contact Cam on cam@theloop.org.au with questions about the role.

Applications close 5pm, Friday 28th of June