**Position Description: Drug Checking Service – Victorian Pill Testing Service, Harm Reduction Peer Worker (Events)**

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| **Organisation** | Harm Reduction Victoria |
| **Project** | Drug Checking Service - Victorian Pill Testing Service |
| **Role** | Harm Reduction Peer Worker (Events) |
| **Employment type** | Casual |
| **Hours** | Variable |
| **Award** | SCHADS Award Level 4.3 |
| **Timing** | September 2025 – June 30, 2026 |

**Position Overview:**

Harm Reduction Peer Workers (HRPWs) bring their living experience of drug use to the provision of drug checking services in Victoria. Working alongside The Loop’s Health & Harm Reduction Workers and as equal participants in service delivery, HRPWs are employed under the amendments to the Drugs, Poisons & Controlled Substances Act as “General Drug Checking Workers” for the provision of harm reduction information to service users, which includes: information about test results, information about reducing risk, and/or information about access to health and other services. HRPWs will be casually employed in one, or both, of 2 service specialisations: Events & Fixed Site. Each role specialisation will require unique skills, living experiences and community knowledge to ensure we’re providing the best peer-to-peer service possible. HRPW (Events) may also apply to work at the fixed-site location later in 2025.

**Responsibilities:**

* To explain the service, including limitations, 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-judgmental and respectful manner
* To complete data entry relating to service delivery
* To provide referrals to other health or welfare services, when service users request or consent to additional support
* To work alongside a multidisciplinary team including chemists and health workers

**Application:** Please submit the following documents to [admin@hrvic.org.au](mailto:admin@hrvic.org.au) by **midnight Friday 3rd of October.**

* Cover Letter addressing the Key Selection Criteria
* Resume of work and/or relevant volunteer experience

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| **Key Selection Criteria:**  **Essential:**   * A passion for peer-based, drug-related harm reduction and health promotion. * Living experience of substance use in a live event or music festival environment. * Demonstrated experience working or volunteering in a peer-based harm reduction role. * Sound understanding of drug effects, pharmacokinetics, contraindications and harm reduction strategies. * Ability to work in new, dynamic and unpredictable environments as part of a team. * Experience working in harm reduction services at events   **Desirable:**   * Knowledge of drug markets, trends and emerging novel psychoactive substances. * Experience working or volunteering in drug checking services. |

**Requirements:**

* Availability for 6 events between November 2025 – April 2026 with a mixture of single & multi-day events
* Available to attend an interview at VPTS 95 Brunswick street, Fitzroy, on 9th or 10th of October if shortlisted.
* Criminal Record Check (see note)
* Working With Children Check (see note)

**Hours:**

* Casual shifts across both multi-day and single day events and festivals, usually including weekends.
* HRPWs (Events) will be responsible for organising their own transport to and from events, and their own accommodation on-site at multi-day events within a designated staff area.

**About Harm Reduction Victoria:**

Harm Reduction Victoria (HRVic) is a peer-based, not-for-profit organization founded in 1987 to address the health and human rights of people who use drugs in Victoria. Originally established as VIVAIDS as part of the community response to the threat of HIV/AIDS among people who inject drugs, HRVic now offers a diverse range of programs focusing on peer education, support and advocacy within a harm reduction framework. Our community-driven approach aims to combat stigma and discrimination while promoting the well-being of people who use drugs, and people accessing pharmacotherapy, in Victoria.  
  
**Our Vision:** An inclusive, respectful and equitable world for people who use drugs, and the communities we are a part of.  
**Our Mission:**  Bring together diverse communities of people who use drugs to improve our shared rights and wellbeing.

**About the Drug Checking Service:**

Victoria legalised drug checking (pill testing) in September 2024 by amending the Drugs, Poisons & Controlled Substances Act – making us the second jurisdiction in the world to have drug-checking secured and written into law. An 18-month “implementation trial” was announced, overseen by the Victorian Department of Health. Harm Reduction Victoria, alongside our consortium partners Youth Support & Advocacy Service (YSAS), and The Loop Australia, are collaborating to establish Victoria’s first drug checking service throughout the trial period (December 2024 – June 2026). We will be attending 10 festivals over the 18 months and establishing a fixed-site service in a central Melbourne location by mid-2026.

**Note:** Due to the nature of our funding, we are required to undertake a Criminal Record Check and/or Working with Children Check for certain roles. A record check with disclosable outcomes does not automatically disqualify anyone from working at HRVic. Please do not let this stop you from applying. The nature of the record and its potential impact on the role will be taken into account by the organisation, and HRVic is committed to assist with the review of any checks within the short time frame required. If you have any queries or concerns about this process, please contact Jess Holcombe, HRVic’s Finance & Operations Manager, on (03) 9329 1500.

Any questions about the role please contact Mae Vincent on 0412275684 email: [MaeV@hrvic.org.au](mailto:MaeV@hrvic.org.au)

*HRVic is an equal opportunity employer and service provider and is a proud supporter and ally of all communities. We recognise that people who use drugs come from all cultures, all ethnicities, all genders, all economic 'classes' and all mental and physical abilities.*