

Month 3 Report (July 2024)

Service overview

CheQpoint is a voluntary, free, and confidential drug checking service funded by Queensland Health. The service is operated in partnership between Queensland Injectors Health Network (QuiHN), Queensland Injectors Voice Advocacy Association (QuiVAA), and The Loop Australia.

On Friday 19 April 2024, CheQpoint Brisbane opened in Bowen Hills.

On Thursday 4 July, CheQpoint Gold Coast opened in Burleigh Heads.

For more information see page 6 or go to: www.quihn.org/cheqpoint

Figure 1. All samples submitted for testing by month (April to July 2024)

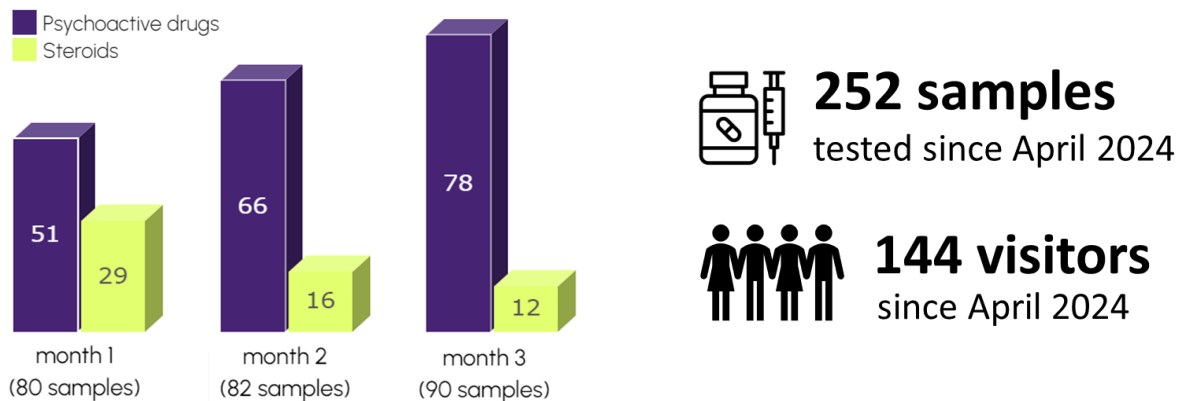


Table 1. Service delivery in July 2024 (Brisbane and Gold Coast)

Service delivery overview		
Visits to CheQpoint (48 visits)	Brisbane	Gold Coast
All presentations (48 visits)	34 visits	14 visits
Psychoactive drug presentations (44 visits)	31 visits	13 visits
Steroid presentations (4 visits)	3 visits	1 visit*
Number of people present (54 people)	38 people	16 people
Samples submitted for testing (90 samples)	Brisbane	Gold Coast
Total number of psychoactive drugs (78 samples)	57 samples	21 samples
Total number of steroids (12 samples) [^]	8 samples	4 samples
Number of samples per visitor (all)	1-4 samples	1-7 samples

* One person brought steroids and psychoactive drugs together (this steroid presentation is not counted)

[^] Steroids and performance or image enhancing drugs are analysed off-site for a research project about the best methods for testing these drugs

July 2024 at a glance



90 samples
78 psychoactive drugs
12 steroids



54 people
visitors



34 visits to Brisbane
14 visits to Gold Coast
48 visits

Service delivery times



Average wait
14 minutes
(range: 1-54 mins)



23 minutes
(range: 9-56 mins)
Average time spent with clients

What people thought was in their drugs

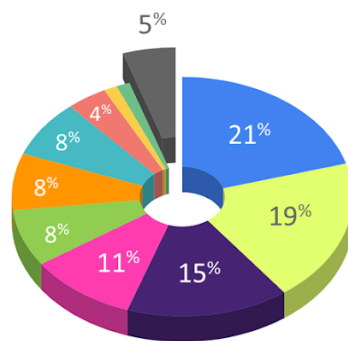
We asked people what substances they expected drugs to contain (see Figure 2). About half (55%) were expected to be stimulants like MDMA, methamphetamine, and cocaine. In 4 cases, clients were unsure what might be in the samples we tested (eg. found substances).

Figure 2. What people expected to be in the samples we tested

78 samples



57 Brisbane
21 Gold Coast
expected to be psychoactive drugs

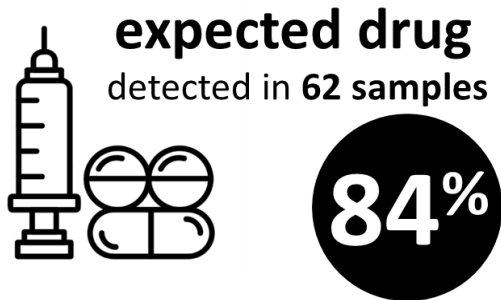


MDMA	16
Methamphetamine	15
Cocaine	12
Ketamine and related dissociatives 8x ketamine, 1x 2-FDCK [^]	9
Heroin	6
Psychedelics 3x LSD, 1x 2C-B, 1x DMT, 1x mescaline	6
Alprazolam tablets	6
GHB, GBL and 1,4-B 1x GHB, 1x GBL, 1x 1,4-B	3
Noopept*	1
Drug type 'unknown'	4

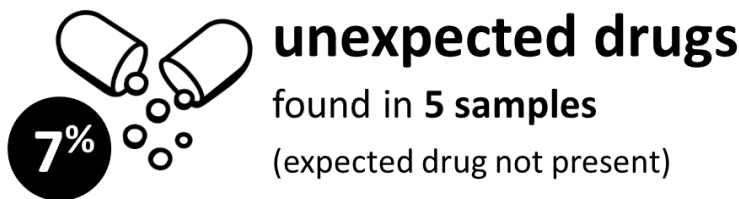
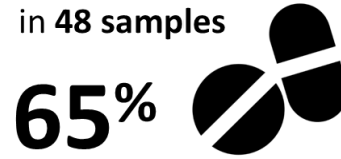
[^] 2-FDCK (also known as 2-fl-2-Oxo-PCM) is a novel dissociative related to ketamine

* **Noopept** is a synthetic supplement reported to have 'nootropic' effects but there is limited evidence to support its use

What did we find when we tested these drugs?



this was the **only substance** found in 48 samples

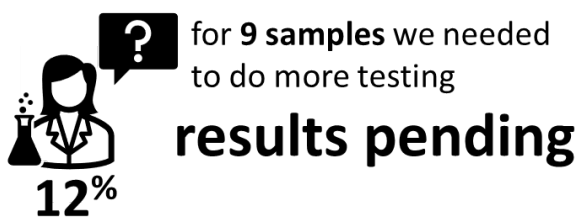


We found substances like **procaine** and **2-FNENDCK** instead of expected ketamine and similar dissociatives; **1,4-butanediol** instead of GHB; and **ketamine** in a sample expected to be DMT (for more information, see Table 2).

Inactive ingredients were present with the expected drug in 14 samples, and 2 other samples where the 'expected drug' was unknown or not present (see Table 2 for more information).



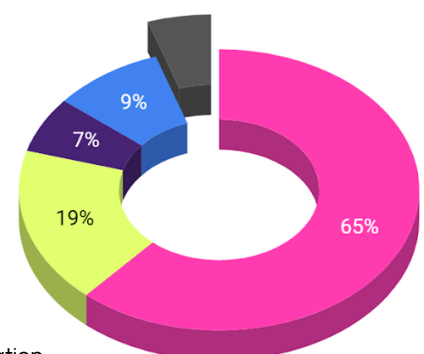
inactive 'fillers' present with the expected drug in 14 samples



Onsite FTIR and/or reagent testing was not conclusive, requiring secondary analysis to confirm results in 9 cases. Refer to Table 2 for more information on these samples.

Figure 3. Summary of results for samples where people told us what they thought was in their drugs

	Brisbane (53 samples)	Gold Coast (21 samples)
Expected drug only	33	15
Expected drug plus inactive ingredient*	11	3
Unexpected psychoactive substance	5	0
Results pending [^]	4	3
Expected drug type unknown (4 samples)		



Percentages based on 74 samples where 'expected drug' type was known at presentation

* Inactive ingredients were also detected in 2 samples where the 'expected drug' was either unknown or not detected

[^] Secondary analyses pending for 9 samples overall (includes 2 samples where the 'expected drug' was not known)

What people did with this information

We asked people about what they planned to do after hearing their results. **42 people (95%)** told us what their immediate plan was and **34 people (77%)** told us about other actions they planned to take in future.

Drug use intentions



12%

asked us to safely dispose of their drugs or said they would dispose of them themselves



29%

said they would take a smaller amount (reduce dose)

Future harm reduction



44%

told us about one or more harm reduction actions* they would take in future



62%

said they would alert or inform others (friends, suppliers, share online)

* **Harm Reduction actions** included: seeking assistance if needed (29%); carrying naloxone (24%); not using alone (21%); being more careful about mixing substances (18%); seeking more information about drugs people might use in future (10%)

What we found for each 'expected drug' (July 2024)

Table 2. Summary of results by expected drug type (July 2024)

All samples by drug type (78 samples tested)	Number of samples (per site)		Substances detected (expected and unexpected substances)	
	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Expected drug detected	Other substances detected (e.g. unexpected psychoactive substances or inactive ingredients)
MDMA	10	6	all	4 samples returned positive results for MDMA + inactive ingredients* 1x MDMA tablet containing cellulose (binding agent) 3x MDMA + methylsulfonylmethane (MSM) - a supplement
Methamphetamine	11	4	all	1 sample returned a positive result for methamphetamine + inactive ingredients* (type unclear - secondary analysis required)
Cocaine	9	3	all	3 samples returned positive results for cocaine + creatine (a supplement)* Note: for one sample, creatine was the main ingredient (some cocaine present)*
Ketamine	7	1	6 (of 8)	1x procaine (a local anaesthetic) - no ketamine detected (white powder tested at Brisbane on 5 July) 1x 2-FNENDCK[^] - no ketamine detected (white powder tested at Brisbane on 19 July - initial result was inconclusive but later confirmed by secondary analysis) 2 samples also returned positive results for ketamine + inactive ingredients* (1x creatine; 1x MSM)
Heroin	4	2	all	3 samples returned a positive result for heroin + inactive ingredients* 2x heroin + sucrose (sugar) 1x heroin + methylsulfonylmethane (MSM)
LSD	3	-	all (reagent testing only)	Onsite reagent tests indicated an indole** consistent with LSD was present in all three samples Note: one client reported feeling unwell after using one tab / blotter - this sample has been prioritised for secondary analysis (results pending)
Alprazolam tablets	3	3	n/a - secondary analysis required	Benzodiazepines occur at low concentration in tablets unlikely to be detected by FTIR (secondary analysis required)
Noopept ^{^^}	1	-	all	

All samples by drug type (78 samples tested)	Number of samples (per site)		Substances detected (expected and unexpected substances)	
	Brisbane	Gold Coast	Expected drug detected	Other substances detected (e.g. unexpected psychoactive substances or inactive ingredients)
Mescaline	1	-	n/a - secondary analysis required	Presented as 'cactus powder' expected to contain mescaline. Mescaline occurs in plant material at low concentrations unlikely to be detected by FTIR (secondary analysis required).
DMT	1	-	none	1x ketamine + creatine (a supplement)* - bright yellow sticky crystals tested at Brisbane on 5 July (client noted there may have been a bag mix-up with this sample).
2C-B	1	-	all	
2-FDCK [^]	1	-	none	1x 2-FNENDCK [^] (white crystalline powder tested at Brisbane 9-July - initial match on FTIR for possible 2-FDCK was confirmed by secondary analysis as 2-FNENDCK)
GHB	1	-	none	1x GBL (no GHB detected) - odourless clear liquid presented to Brisbane on 26 July
GBL	-	1	all	
1,4-Butanediol	-	1	all	
Expected drug 'unknown'	4	-	n/a	1x LSD blotter (onsite reagent testing indicated an indole** consistent with LSD) 1x MDMA tablet + inactive ingredients* (probable cellulose + other - type unclear) 2x inconclusive results: 1x gooey resin; 1x off-white powder in capsule (secondary analysis needed)
All (78 samples)	57	21	62	Unexpected psychoactive substances were detected in 5 samples (no expected drug present) Inactive 'filler' ingredients were present in 16 samples* Results were inconclusive for 10 samples (secondary analysis needed)

* **Inactive ingredients** were detected in 14 powder/crystal samples and 2 tablets - these included supplements like creatine and methylsulfonylmethane (MSM), sucrose (sugar) and cellulose.

[^] **2F-NENDCK** (also known as 2'-fluoro-2-oxo-PCE or 2-FXE) and **2-FDCK** (2'-Fl-2-Oxo-PCM) are compounds of similar structure - both are novel dissociatives related to ketamine.

** **'Indoles'** are psychedelic substances like LSD and similar compounds.

^{^^} **Noopept** is reported to have 'nootropic' effects (e.g. improved memory) but there is limited evidence to support its use.

Find out what's in your drugs in Queensland

BRISBANE

Fridays 2 pm - 6 pm

QulHN Brisbane (Bowen Hills)

1 Hamilton Place



GOLD COAST

Thursdays 2 pm - 6 pm

QulHN Gold Coast (Burleigh Heads)

Shop 12 / 89-99 West Burleigh Road

How do we test?

Almost all samples are tested on-site by qualified and experienced chemists using **Fourier Transform Infrared (FTIR) spectroscopy**, with the exception of drugs expected to be LSD. For these, our chemists use an Ehrlich colorimetric reagent test designed to identify the presence of 'indoles' (psychedelic substances like LSD and similar compounds).

In some cases, other reagents (e.g. Marquis, Mandelin, Liebermann's, Mecke) are used to help inform results.

All samples are transferred to Griffith Analytical Facility for secondary analysis (laboratory results pending unless otherwise stated).

We **can analyse** a small amount taken from pills, powders, crystals, liquids and blotters, while people wait.

We **cannot analyse** plants or fungus onsite (eg. cannabis, cactus, or mushrooms), confectionery (eg. gummies or cookies), or used drug paraphernalia (e.g. bags or equipment).

Steroids cannot be analysed onsite. People who use steroids and other performance or image enhancing drugs can submit samples for testing for a research project conducted in partnership with Griffith University but these results are not communicated back to individuals.

We are working on validating onsite analytical methods for estimating purity for some drugs (eg. MDMA).