

UQ Winter Research Project Description - 2026

Project title:	ROIDCheck: Understanding Risk, Product Reliability, and Drug Checking Among People Who Use Steroids in Australia
Hours of engagement & delivery mode	Hours of engagement: 20–36 hours per week over 4 weeks (within 29 June – 24 July 2026). Hybrid. Students may work remotely and/or on-site at UQ Herston campus. Interviews will be conducted online (Microsoft Teams).
Description:	<p>This project forms part of ROIDCheck, Australia’s first harm reduction and drug-checking program dedicated to anabolic-androgenic steroids (AAS) and other image and performance enhancing drugs (IPEDs). The national research program is conducting 120 in-depth interviews with people who use steroids to understand their perceptions of product quality, risk, harm reduction, and the value of drug checking.</p> <p>The Winter Research Scholar will assist with qualitative data collection and preliminary analysis of interviews conducted with steroid consumers across Australia. This project will contribute directly to emerging national evidence on product adulteration, perceived health risks, and consumer experiences of drug checking services.</p>
Expected learning outcomes and deliverables:	<p>A student participating in this project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain experience conducting qualitative research with people who use alcohol and other drugs • Develop skills in interview scheduling, transcription management, data organisation, and ethics-aligned research practice • Be introduced to coding frameworks, thematic analysis, and harm reduction theory • Shadow and assist with online interviews (where appropriate) • Contribute to a preliminary analysis summary for the project team • Produce a brief written report or short presentation summarising emerging themes and reflections from the data <p>Students may also be acknowledged in conference presentations or publications arising from the project, depending on their level of contribution.</p>
Suitable for	<p>Suitable for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd–4th year students in public health, psychology, sociology, criminology, medicine, or related disciplines • Students interested in harm reduction, substance use, qualitative research, or community-embedded research • Strong organisational skills and comfort engaging with sensitive topics are an advantage • No prior experience in drug research is required — training and supervision will be provided
Primary supervisor:	Timothy Piatkowski
Contact information:	t.piatkowski@uq.edu.au