

1998

A chronology of LGBTIQ+ communities and movements in Sydney from 1969 to 2018

Updated on 7/10/2019

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
January 1998	Brisbane	The Federal Court finds that the Australian Defence Force had acted properly when it discharged a soldier in December 1993 following his positive HIV test.	SSO 388
January 1998	Strasbourg	he Secretariat General of the Council of Europe grants consultative status to the International Lesbian and Gay Association.	CQ 268
February 1998		The AIDS Council of NSW launches its second education campaign targeting gay male couples, <i>Talk, Test, Trust</i> .	SSO 393
February 1998		<i>Teletubbies!</i> , the BBC TV show for 2 – 6 year olds, screens on the ABC.	SSO 393
8 February 1998		40,000 – 45,000 attend the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Fair Day in Victoria Park.	SSO 392
21-22 February 1998		The third national conference of the Australian Bisexual Network is held at the PRIDE Centre.	SSO 394
27 February 1998	Canberra	Handing down his judgement in the Federal Court, Justice Moore found the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission had erred in its interpretation of the Public Service Act's definition of spouse on 17 June 1996, by including same sex couples. The application of Roger Miller to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for spouse allowances for his partner was rejected.	SSO 395
28 February 1998		A crowd of 700,000 lines the parade route of the 1998 Mardi Gras Parade. It is led by 220 people who participated in the first Mardi Gras.	SSO 395
23 March 1998		<i>Asian Gay Proud</i> , a new education campaign targeting Asian gays is launched at Sydney Town Hall. It is the initiative of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.	SSO 398
23 March 1998	Canberra	Green WA Senator Dee Margetts amendment to the Family Trust Distribution (Primary Liability) Bill 1997, to include same sex partners in the Bill's definition of a de fact spouse, is defeated in the Australian Senate.	SSO 398



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26 March 1998		The Sisters of Charity Health Service adopts an integration plan, handing over the Sacred Heart Hospice to St Vincents Hospital.	SSO 399
April 1998		The AIDS Council of NSW and Vanessa Wagner launch <i>Positive Fun and Esteem</i> , a project for positive young gay men.	SSO 401
4 April 1998		The tenth anniversary unfolding of the Quilt takes place at Darling Harbour.	SSO 400
19 April 1998		Reverend Shelagh Zincke becomes the first woman ordained in Australia into the clergy of the Metropolitan Community Church.	SSO 402
24 April 1998		The NSW Police respond to claims after receiving a letter of enquiry from the Anti-Discrimination Board, about anti-gay discrimination suffered by two former NSW Police Service employees.	SSO 408
29 April 1998		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby organises a “Relationships Rally” outside the NSW Parliament House.	SSO 402
7 May 1998		<i>A Homophobia: What are you scared of?</i> Campaign is launched at the Australian Football League Club – the Sydney Swans, Locker Room.	SSO 405
8 May 1998		The Coalition of Activist Lesbians launches three resource kits. One targets lesbians coming out, another the organisations addressing lesbian access and equity policies and the other, lesbians who want to get involved in “positive community initiatives”.	SSO 403
9 May 1998		The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Trade Union Caucus joins the Maritime Union of Australia picket lines at Port Botany, in support of workers sacked by Patrick Stevedores.	SSO 403
28 May 1998	Washington DC	US President, Bill Clinton issues an executive order banning discrimination against lesbian and gay government employees.	SSO 408
29 May 1998		Unions apply to have Family Law extended to same sex couples in Catholic Church Awards, in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission.	SSO 406
31 May 1998	Melbourne	Roman Catholic Cardinal Pell refuses Holy Communion to 50 gay men, lesbians and their supporters at St Patricks Cathedral.	SSO 408



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June 1998		A gay cook is awarded damages in the Federal Court against the Salvation Army's Bethesda Hospital after a ruling that he was subjected to two years of "ongoing and systematic harassment".	SSO 412
June 1998		A national stocktake of youth suicide prevention projects finds that only 12 out of 853 specifically target sexuality as a risk factor.	SSO 412
15-21 June 1998		3 blocks of the AIDS Memorial Quilt is displayed at the Marrickville Metro Shopping Centre.	SSO 409
17 June 1998		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby organises a 3,000 strong rally outside NSW Parliament House in support of a Domestic Relationships Bill which would give legal recognition to same sex relationships.	SSO 409 SSO 410
22 June 1998	Canberra	<i>The Superannuation (Entitlements of Same Sex Couples) Bill 1998</i> is introduced by Federal MP Anthony Albanese into Federal Parliament. The Bill seeks to eliminate superannuation discrimination by changing the definition of dependent to include the spouse, de facto partner and any child of the person.	SSO 410
24 June 1998		A private member's <i>De Facto Relationships (Amendment) Bill 1998</i> , seeking to legally recognise same sex relationships, is introduced into the NSW Parliament by the Australian Democrats MLC, Elizabeth Kirkby.	SSO 411
27-28 June 1998		The seventh annual Queer Collaborations Conference is held at the University of Tasmania.	SSO 411
July 1998		The NSW National Party leader, Ian Armstrong attacks the Labor Carr government for funding a documentary charting the response to the rape and bashing of a lesbian mother in Surry Hills in 1990.	SSO 415
28 July 1998		The South Sydney Council approves the development application of the People Living with HIV/AIDS organisation (PLWHA) to use its Bourke Street Surry Hills Positive Living Centre as a day care and support facility despite opposition from some local residents.	SSO 417



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August 1998		The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras writes to major political figures seeking discussions on equal rights for gays and lesbians and assistance in securing the long-term future of the Mardi Gras following on from the release of its Economic Impact Survey of the Mardi Gras.	SSO 417
2 August 1998		Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras releases an economic impact survey of the Mardi Gras season which estimates \$99 million flow from this event, the majority of the expenditure being concentrated in the South Sydney Council Area.	SSO 416
2 – 7 August 1998	Amsterdam	300 Australian lesbians and gay men participate in the 1998 Gay Games, with half of the contingent coming from Sydney.	SSO 415
4 August 1998		The AIDS Council of NSW launches its 3-year Strategic Directions Plan, which identifies HIV positive men and the lesbian community as its core constituency.	SSO 417
23 August 1998		“Fascist gay cuts” and “die poofter die” are tagged on the PRIDE Centre in Hutchinson Street Surry Hills.	SSO 420
23 September 1998		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby stage the <i>Big Event</i> – a crowd of 2-5,000 addressed by Julie McCrossin outside the NSW Parliament House demanding the Labour Government recognise gay and lesbian relationships.	SSO 424
October 1998		Transgender women who identify as lesbian can now become members of Lesbian Space Inc.	SSO 428
October 1998		90 people attend the <i>Spanning Identities Conference</i> , organised by lobby group Access Plus. Attendees express anger at their exclusion from the social, cultural and political life of queer communities.	SSO 428
October 1998		The NSW Labor Council recommends that unions support the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby’s campaign to reform de facto relationships legislation and other discriminatory laws.	SSO 427
2 October 1998		Malcolm Thomas Green is sentenced to 18 years gaol for the manslaughter of Donald Wayne Gillies in May 1993 after Gillies had made a non-violent homosexual advance toward Green. Green received a murder sentence in 1994, but the High Court overturned the decision and ordered a re-trial.	SSO 426
6 October 1998	Laramie, Wyoming	University student, Matthew Shepherd is murdered by 2 men.	SSO 427



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12 October 1998		NSW Premier, Bob Carr's office is picketed to put pressure on the Government to support a bill recognising same sex relationships.	SSO 426
14 October 1998		The NSW Attorney-General Jeff Shaw recommends the reform of the NSW Crimes Act to exclude non-violent homosexual advance from forming the basis of the defence of provocation.	SSO 427
28 October 1998		A forum on hate crime is held to discuss the NSW Attorney-General's <i>Working Party on Homosexual Advance Defence's</i> recommendation that the law be changed so that a non-violent homosexual advance should no longer be allowed as a basis of the defence of provocation.	SSO 428
November 1998		Justice Michael Kirby outs himself by opting to include his partner of 30 years in his <i>Who's Who</i> entry.	SSO 453
November 1998	Canberra	The Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights calls on the Immigration Minister, Phillip Ruddock to recognise persecution on the grounds of sexuality, following the Refugee Review Tribunal's rejection of a Sri Lankan gay man's application for refugee status.	SSO 431
November 1998		The Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commissioner Chris Sidoti interprets the definition of spouse to exclude same sex relationships in the case of Greg Brown who had spent 4 years attempting to access his partner's superannuation death benefits.	SSO 433
22 November 1998		A crowd of 2,000 gathers in Hyde Park to remember those who had died from AIDS.	SSO 433
December 1998	QLD	A documentary exploring William Yang's response to AIDS, his past and the history of Chinese Australians is shot in northern Qld.	SSO 434
December 1998		Shareholders at the Sydney Star Observer AGM approve the inclusion of transgender, bisexual and queer to its official target audience.	SSO 434
December 1998		The Marrickville Council votes to write to the NSW Upper House Social Issues Committee urging reform around same sex couples.	SSO 437

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December 1998		The NSW Department of Housing widens the criteria for the Special Rental Subsidy to benefit more people who are living with HIV/AIDS.	SSO 437
1 December 1998		Amendments to the Workers Compensation Act, introduced by the Attorney General, Jeff Shaw, comes into effect, with entitlements extended to dependent same sex partners, parents and siblings, as well as to a heterosexual worker's dependent spouse and children.	SSO 440
16 December 1998		The NSW Attorney-General's Department commits to funding the \$200,000 "Community United Against Violence Campaign", aimed at reducing anti-gay and lesbian hate crimes.	SSO 436
17 December 1998		Merran Lee reaches an out of court settlement with Garuda Indonesia Ltd after being refused family benefits available to the airline's heterosexual employees.	SSO 437

Sources:

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

CQ = Capital Q

