

1999

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
29 January 1999		The Homosexual Advance Defense (HAD) working group, set up by the NSW Attorney-General to observe the use of this defense, holds its first meeting.	SSO 441
February 1999		The NSW Greens launch their lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender policy for the next parliamentary term.	SSO 445
February 1999		The first episode of <i>Queer as Folk</i> is screened on Channel 4 in the UK.	SSO 446
February 1999		HIV positive man, Richard Heystraten is refused treatment for a severed finger at the Surry Hills Medical Centre because the Centre claimed that it had no clean up facilities.	SSO 448
1 February 1999		Defamation proceedings commence against the Seven Network in the NSW Supreme Court. Solicitor John Marsden alleges the Network defamed him on its programs, <i>Today Tonight</i> and <i>Witness</i> .	SSO 442
3 February 1999		The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras meets with the Trustees of the Sydney Opera House, after it cancelled guided tours by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, reportedly after representations from the Premier Bob Carr, Fred Nile MLC and the Catholic Church.	SSO 442
6 February 1999		Don Dunstan, former SA Premier dies. He is survived by his long-time partner Stephen Cheng.	SSO 443
13 February 1999		Mardi Gras Fair Day is held at Victoria Park.	SSO 443
27 February 1999		The 22 nd Mardi Gras Parade and Party are held. 6,000 participants are led by a double-sided effigy of Bob Carr and Kerry Chikarovski and are cheered on by 600,000 spectators.	SSO 445
March 1999		A NSW Supreme Court jury finds that the solicitor, John Marsden was defamed by two Channel 7 current affairs programmes.	SSO 446
March 1999		The NSW Health Department publishes new guidelines which states that a public hospital patient's right to receive visitors includes same sex couples.	SSO 446



1999

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
March 1999		Trials of a HIV vaccine, Avipox, are expected to begin before June this year.	SSO 450
2 March 1999		Dusty Springfield dies at the age of 59 from breast cancer.	SSO 447
16 March 1999		The Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre hosts <i>Getting Pregnant, Lesbian Style</i> .	SSO 447
25 March 1999		78er, Virginia Bell is sworn in as a Justice of the Supreme Court of NSW.	SSO 447
27 March 1999		The Carr NSW Labor Party is re-elected. Clover Moore is the re-elected member for Bligh, defeating the ALP's Vic Smith, gay Liberal candidate Peter Fussell and lesbian Green's candidate Emelia Holdaway.	SSO 450
10 April 1999		A meeting to create a NSW chapter of Rainbow Sash, is held.	SSO 450
10 April 1999		The Quilt Project displays <i>The Quilt</i> at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.	SSO 451
May 1999		Craig Johnston publishes his book, <i>Sydney Gaze</i> which documents and comments on the local gay movement.	SSO 455
May 1999		The Satellite Group, which recently bought the Beresford and Beauchamp Hotels, buys the <i>Melbourne Star Observer</i> and <i>Outrage</i> and the majority shareholding in <i>Capital Q</i> .	SSO 458
May 1999		Out lesbian, Kerryn Phelps is elected President of the NSW branch of the Australian Medical Association.	SSO 458
June 1999		A meeting of community organisations and the new board of Sydney 2000 meet to discuss funding of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games.	SSO 460
June 1999		In a report tabled in Federal Parliament, Human Rights Commissioner, Chris Sidoti recommends the amendment of superannuation law to eliminate discrimination against same sex partners.	SSO 460
June 1999		An experimental drug, C9, is found to block the ion channel that HIV uses to reproduce within cells, effectively disabling the virus.	SSO 462

1999

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
1 June 1999		The <i>Property (Relationships) Legislation Amendment Bill</i> is passed in the NSW. The legislation covers inheritance, stamp duty, property division, guardianship if a same sex partner is incapacitated, bail applications, compensation if a partner is hurt or killed in an accident, notification of partners of patients with mental illness and provision for partners when a person is unable to manage his or her own affairs.	SSO 459
10 June 1999	Townsville	A homemade bomb explodes in the foyer of the Queensland AIDS Council Offices, injuring two people. Two 19-year-old men are charged in July for the attack.	SSO467
16 June 1999		Sydney 2002 Gay Games, announces the appointment of Robyn Archer as the artistic director of the Games Cultural Festival.	SSO 461
28 June 1999		Co-President of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, Tim Young and his partner, Matthew McCrory, are the first to use the new legislation, to transfer the title deed of their house into joint names.	SSO 463
July 1999		Leichhardt Council actively seeks input from local lesbians into its draft Women's Section of its new Social Plan.	SSO 465
July 1999		Catherine James is appointed editor of <i>Lesbians on the Loose</i> .	SSO 464
July 1999	Los Angeles	500 gay and lesbian members of the Metropolitan Community Church protest against the United States' ban on HIV people entering the country, after international delegates, including two from Australia are refused visas to attend its 30 th anniversary conference.	SSO 465
July 1999	St Louis, USA	An experimental two-pronged anti-HIV treatment which delivers two vaccines into the body, successfully creates an immune response in 90% of volunteers.	SSO 466
July 1999	National	Father Claude, the national coordinator of Acceptance Australia, condemns the Vatican for ordering an American priest and nun to stop ministering to gays and lesbians and failing to comply with the Catholic Church's teachings on the "intrinsic evil of homosexual acts".	SSO 466
1 July 1999	Canberra	Two seats in the Australian Senate are now occupied by openly gay politicians – Bob Brown and Brian Greig.	SSO 429



1999

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
22 July 1999		The first episode of <i>Will and Grace</i> screens at 8pm on Channel 7.	SSO 466
August 1999		Jackie Brew commences work as the Crime Prevention Division Policy Officer (Gay and Lesbian Liaison) in the NSW Attorney General's Department.	SSO 470
August 1999		Results of a Morgan Public Opinion Poll show that 55% of Australians are not in favour of homosexual couples adopting children.	SSO 471
15 August 1999		The Satellite Group managing director, Greg Fisher and recently appointed chair, Dr Kerry Phelps, announce the Group's pending float – the world's first "pink float" – on the Australian Stock Exchange. Satellite, established in 1996, is now valued at \$220 million.	SSO 470
September 1999		The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations launches a <i>Who Am I</i> – a campaign targeted at same-sex attracted young men to empower them to make healthy, life-affirming choices.	SSO 473
September 1999		Collective Action Against Homophobia (CAAH) forms and plans a picket and all-day protest outside a proposed Liberty Christian Ministries Conference <i>Coming Out: A Journey Out of Homosexuality</i> on September 25. The Conference is subsequently cancelled due to GLBTQ protests.	SSO 474 SSO 476
September 1999		An article published in <i>The Australian</i> "Gay Abandon" by staff journalist Georgina Safe, is condemned by AIDS experts.	SSO 476
September 1999		Kooncha Brown is appointed as the ACON Aboriginal and Torres Strait Transgender and Sistergirl Project Officer.	SSO 474
1 September 1999		Australian Democrats Senator Brian Greig uses his maiden speech to describe the homophobic environment in which gay men and lesbians live, as akin to apartheid.	SSO 472
10 September 1999		The float of the Satellite Group closes fully subscribed.	SSO 473
11 September 1999		The Lesbian Mental Health Support Group's first meeting is held.	SSO 472



1999

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
25 – 26 September 1999		The Gay and Lesbian Martial Arts Team win six medals, including 3 for first place at the 8 th International Martial Arts Championships at Lidcombe.	SSO 476
October 1999		Anti-HIV drug, <i>Storcin</i> aka <i>efavirenz</i> or <i>MSD</i> is now available on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme.	SSO 478
8 October 1999		Queer Screen's queerDOC 99 Festival is launched.	SSO 478
30 October 1999		The fifth annual Gay and Lesbian Australian Dance Championships are held at the Terrance Ballroom, University of NSW.	SSO 480
November 1999	Dubbo	The Local Government and Shires Association Annual Conference, mandates that lesbians and gay men be included in Council Social Plans.	SSO 486
2 November 1999		The Reconciliation group, <i>Black + White + Pink</i> holds a workshop at the Settlement in Chippendale. It aims to get comment on the recently released draft Declaration for Reconciliation. Bev Lange is appointed the GLBT rep on the committee.	SSO 480 SSO 481
4 November 1999	Melbourne	Andrew Olexander, the first openly gay Liberal Party member to be elected to any Australian Parliament, gives his first speech to the Victorian Legislative Council.	SSO 482
10 November 1999		The NSW Liberal Party allows its Members of Parliament a conscience vote on a bill seeking to equalise the age of consent.	SSO 482
15 November 1999		John Marsden's defamation case against Chanel Seven opens. He seeks damages for TV programmes in May 1996 that had claimed he knowingly had sex with males who were under the age of consent.	SSO 483
18 November 1999		A Bill to equalise the Age of Consent in NSW is defeated 20 votes to 19 in the NSW Legislative Council. Labor MLC, Henry Tsang's opposition to the Bill is seen as critical for its defeat.	SSO 484
21 November 1999		The 1999 Annual Candlelight Procession begins at Green Park and ends in Hyde Park where Jimmy Barnes, Thelma Houston, Tobin Saunders and Paul Capsis headline performances and speeches.	SSO 483



1999

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
22 November 1999		Surry Hills Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officer, Steven Cost-Chretien, resigns, alleging homophobia and harassment. Cost-Chretien, who is not homosexual, had developed a popular profile among inner city gays and lesbians.	SSO 485
29 November 1999		Satellite Managing Director, Greg Fisher, announces plans to create the world's first international gay and lesbian website and the start of research into retirement requirements for gays and lesbians.	SSO 485
December 1999		The first major Australian account of sexuality and transgender workplace discrimination, <i>The Pink Ceiling Is Too Low – Workplace Experiences of Lesbians, Gay Men and Transgender People</i> , is launched. Three years in the making, it was produced by the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research and the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.	SSO 486
December 1999		A report produced by the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues, <i>Report on Domestic Relationships</i> , recommends reforms to extend the rights of lesbian and gay couples.	SSO 486
December 1999	Not stated	A High Court decision finds a soldier, discharged in 1993 when his HIV positive status was discovered, can be lawfully sacked.	SSO 486
December 1999		A Federal Government review of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme is confirmed by the Federal Health Minister, Michael Wooldridge. Health groups claim this could assist access to new HIV medications.	SSO 486
December 1999	Perth	The 11 th Conference of the Australian Society of HIV Medicine, discusses the epidemic overseas, changing needs and sero-discordancy.	SSO 487
December 1999		Marrickville Council proposes to form a Gay and Lesbian Community Consultative Committee.	SSO 489
9-10 December 1999		<i>Hate Crimes – Politics, Practice, Power Conference</i> is held at the University of Sydney and discusses hate crimes.	SSO 487
29 November 1999		Satellite Managing Director, Greg Fisher, announces plans to create the world's first international gay and lesbian website and the start of research into retirement requirements for gays and lesbians.	SSO 485

Sources:

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

