

THE ROAD TO REFORM

Is paved with persistence.....

A time line of events leading up to this historic legislation in NSW

1988	Formation of Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby
February 1992	Legal Rights Service first raises recognition of same-sex relationships
Throughout 1992	Series of public forums held by the Lobby; media debate on approach to recognition
February 1993	We produce the first edition of <i>The Bride Wore Pink, A Discussion Paper on the Legal Recognition of Our Relationships</i>
Throughout 1993	Further consultation and discussion with community groups
February 1993	Second edition of <i>The Bride Wore Pink</i> produced after consideration of feedback including written submissions. Recommends seeking the same rights as heterosexual de factos and pursuing recognition of some other relationships.
22 February 1995	Bob Carr makes promises to the gay and lesbian community to recognise same sex partners in the areas of inheritance, guardianship and hospital visiting rights in a letter to ACON. Andrew Refshauge later repeated these promises at a Lobby election forum.
1995-7	Intensive behind-the-scenes lobbying to ensure promises become a reality.
24 June 1998	Democrat Liz Kirkby introduces <i>De Facto Relationships Amendment Bill 1998</i> drafted by the Lobby into Upper House of NSW Parliament.
1998	Three large rallies outside Parliament House and numerous smaller events in support of recognition. Broad support secured from unions, the Law Society, civil rights groups, some churches and a range of individuals and organisations.
October 1998	The Government refers the Bill to the Social Issues Committee of the Upper House. Submissions are overwhelmingly positive.
13 May 1999	The Attorney-General, Jeff Shaw, introduces the <i>Property (Relationships) Legislation Amendment Bill 1999</i> into the Upper House.
25 May 1999	Coalition decides not to oppose Bill.
26 May 1999	The Bill passes the Upper House.
1 June 1999	The Bill passes unopposed through the Lower House and becomes an Act of Parliament.
28 June 1999	The Act commences and same sex couples receive most of the same rights as heterosexual de factos.