



Pride in Law

NSW CHAPTER

FEATURE ARTICLE

BI + (IN)VISIBILITY: MARGINS WITHIN THE MARGINALISED

By Taylah Spirovski (she/her)

The mental health impacts of bisexual+ invisibility, erasure and intersectionality are topics long discussed. Addressing their prevalence in the modern-day queer community is one of the key aims of bisexual+ activism.



‘Bisexual+’ refers to all multi-gender attracted people, including pansexual people.

I describe myself as bisexual because I can be attracted (romantically and/or sexually) to people of more than one sex and / or gender. Not necessarily at the same time or in the same way or to the same degree. Common criticisms, often couched as ‘jokes’, that this makes me

indecisive, confused, promiscuous, not gay enough or too straight to be considered gay, is a form of bisexual+ erasure and invisibility. These are monosexism stereotypes and a form of biphobia.

There are serious consequences of bisexual+ invisibility, including the health and economic wellbeing of bisexual+ people, as well as a lack of funding for bisexual+ organisations, events, initiatives and programs.

In order to understand and solve for bisexual+ erasure and invisibility, we must examine some of its breeding grounds. Perhaps counterintuitively, one such place can be queer spaces.

Queer* spaces ought to be a safe and supportive oasis of queer expression and comfort for all LGBTIQ+ people. Unfortunately, this isn’t always the case, especially for bisexual+ women. In Sydney, there are far fewer bars and events

created for queer women in comparison to the spaces designed for and dominated by gay men. The imbalance in visibility and investment means that bisexual+ women don't always feel included in supposedly inclusive spaces.

It is difficult to have these conversations. It goes without saying that queer men, and indeed, all LGBTIQ+ people, deserve safe spaces to express themselves freely and seek community and connection. However, we cannot and should not ignore some of the blatant hostility towards queer women, and the patriarchal entitlement over some LGBTIQ+ spaces. Bisexual+ women in particular experience microaggressions that position them as invaders of queer spaces. Examples of this include assuming heteronormativity (i.e. when a bisexual+ woman is partnered with a man, despite a history of relationships with women), suggestions that bisexual+ women are "not really queer" or need to "pick a side", and so on. The message is, 'you don't belong'. That isn't community and it isn't fair.

Queer women deserve more protected spaces where they can meet, connect, and simply exist - free from the pressures of some gay bars and male-dominated environments. We've got enough of that in everyday life!

The recent U.S presidential election has dominated public discourse for many reasons, but especially because of Trump's war against diversity, equity and inclusion.

Australia will have its own federal election sometime in May this year. I urge you to be informed and to make thoughtful choices. It is your time and right to have your voice heard and ensure that the decisions you make reflect the values and needs of your community. I want to know who will:

1. create opportunities for local bisexuals to become more connected to each other and their community to enhance wellbeing and resilience;
2. increase the visibility of bisexual+ people within the broader community; and
3. raise awareness of the issues faced by bisexual+ people including the stark links to misogyny. ■

**Queer, in this context, is used as an umbrella term to encompass all LGBTIQ+ identities and sexualities.*

Learn more...

Do you want to better understand bisexuality? Here's a short reading list.

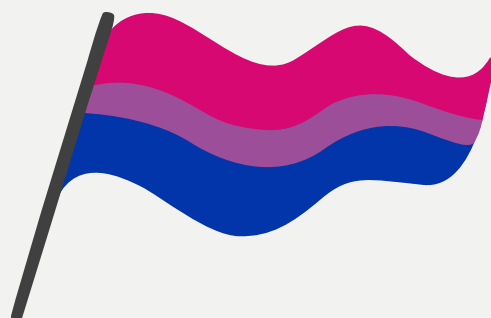
Shaw, Julia (2022) *Bi: The Hidden Culture, History, and Science of Bisexuality* (Abrams Press) <https://www.amazon.com.au/Bi-Culture-History-Science-Bisexuality/dp/1419744356>

Serano, Julia (2007) *Whipping Girl: a Transsexual Woman on Sexism and the Scapegoating of Femininity* (Seal Press, 2nd edition) 11
<https://www.amazon.com.au/Whipping-Girl-Transsexual-Scapegoating-Femininity/dp/1580056229>

Henningham, M, (2023) 'Nowhere to bi: Barriers to belonging in the broader LGBTQ+ community for Aboriginal bi+ people in Australia', *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, 28(1), 63–83 <https://doi.org/10.1080/10894160.2023.2233339>

Jones, T and Hillier, L, (2014) 'The Erasure of Bisexual Students in Australian Education Policy and Practice', *Journal of Bisexuality*, 14(1), 53–74
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15299716.2014.872465>

Farquhar, M and Dau, D (2020) 'Real, visible, here: Bisexual+ visibility in Western Australia', *Critical Social Policy*, 40(2), 258-278
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0261018319895674>



Member Spotlight

Meet Taylah Spirovski



Taylah is a Litigation Lawyer at HWL Ebsworth Lawyers and in 2024, was the President of NSW Young Lawyers.

Taylah is deeply committed to social justice and community advocacy.

Taylah is the Chief Executive Officer of youth-led human rights organisation, Voices of Influence Australia. Here, she leads a team and coordinates policy-based projects and initiatives to empower and educate young people, while advancing the rights of marginalised communities. Last year, she ran their inaugural Q.U.E.E.R Youth Network, a leadership program for young queer people from urban and regional areas.

Taylah is also the youngest board member of Women Illawarra, a not-for-profit community organisation run by women for women affected by domestic violence.

In August 2023, Taylah was awarded 'Woman Lawyer of the Year (under 5 PQE)' by the Women Lawyers Association of NSW.

Thank you Taylah for your wonderful contribution to the Pride in Law NSW newsletter!

Want to write a piece?

Send submissions to communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org

Mental Health Check-In

Here at the NSW Chapter of Pride in Law we understand that between life, work, and the world in general things can get stressful and we don't always take the time to look after ourselves!

Take this as an opportunity to check in with yourself, and if you need, check out some amazing resources.

If you or a loved one are struggling, consider reaching out to any of these services:

<u>QLife</u> (LGBTIQ+ peer support).....	1800 184 527
<u>Twenty10</u> (LGBTIQ+ youth social support, Sydney).....	8594 9555
<u>Twenty10</u> (NSW regional and rural).....	1800 65 2010
<u>Rainbow Door</u> (LGBT helpline and services).....	1800 729 367
Lifeline (crisis support).....	13 11 14
Lifeline (text).....	0477 13 11 14
Kids Helpline.....	1800 55 1800
<u>Beyond Blue</u> (mental health support).....	1300 22 4636
1800RESPECT (assault, family and DV counselling).....	1800 737 732
NSW Victims Services (victims of violent crime).....	1800 633 063
Victims Services (Aboriginal Identified).....	1800 019123
<u>MensLine</u> (counselling for men).....	1300 78 99 78
<u>13YARN</u> (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crisis support)....	13 92 76
<u>ACON</u> (NSW HIV and LGBTQ+ health).....	(02) 9206 9000
<u>Inner City Legal Centre</u> (LGBT legal advice).....	(02) 9332 1966



Looking for some more long-term support? Why not check out:

Community Spotlight



The Identity Clinic was born out of a vision to create a sanctuary for the LGBTQIA+ community in Australia, a place where individuals could receive the affirming care they deserve. Our founder, deeply embedded in the queer community, recognised a profound gap in the healthcare system—a lack of focused, inclusive services that truly understood and respected the unique experiences and needs of LGBTQIA+ individuals.

The Identity Clinic was envisioned as more than just a healthcare facility. It was to be a sanctuary where every individual could feel seen, heard, and valued. A place where the principles of inclusivity, respect, and empathy were not just ideals, but the very foundation of care. Our clinic was designed to be a beacon of hope and support, providing a wide range of services including psychological support, allied health services, diagnostics, and assessments, all delivered through a lens of queer and neuro-affirming care.

At The Identity Clinic you can find general mental health services, gender and sexuality affirming services, and assessments and diagnosis. The Identity Clinic offers support to people who want to engage publicly, privately, through NDIS, and more!

Want to check them out? Find them at <https://www.theidentityclinic.org/>

Upcoming Events

Pride in Law @ Mardi Gras Fair Day 2025!

Join Pride in Law at the Sydney Mardi Gras Fair Day on **Sunday 16 Feb**, to celebrate queer love and joy. Visit our stall for membership enquiries, events and projects for the upcoming year, and great new connections!



‘Networking in the Moonlight’ Pride in Law Rooftop Social



Join us at the **East Village Hotel** rooftop in **Darlinghurst** on **Thursday 20 Feb**, at **6 PM** for a to kick off the Mardi Gras season! Enjoy canapés, play networking bingo, and maybe win a prize!

Tickets are free! Register to secure your spot today!

events.humanitix.com/networking-in-the-moonlight

Anti-Discrimination and LGBTIQ+ **Ashurst** Law Reform Panel

Join Pride in Law NSW and Ashurst on **Thursday 13 March**, to wrap up Mardi Gras season with an informative panel on **What is ‘Free To Be’: a Guide to Anti-Discrimination and LGBTIQ+ Law Reform**.

Attendance is free but places are limited! Pre-book your tickets here:

events.humanitix.com/pride-in-law-x-ashurst-mardi-gras-panel-event



LGBTIQA+ Calendar 2025



February 2025

14 Feb to 2 March - Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

**16 Feb - Mardi Gras Fair Day
(see us there!)**

16 Feb - Aromantic Spectrum Awareness Week

March 2025

1 March - Sydney Mardi Gras Parade

31 March - Transgender Day of Visibility

April 2025

6 April - Asexual (ACE) Day of Visibility

9 April - International Pink Day

18 April - National Transgender HIV Testing Day

21 - 27 April - Lesbian Visibility Week

PRIDE!

May 2025

15 May - International Day of Families

17 May - International Day Against LGBTIQA+ Discrimination (IDAHOBIT)

18 May - World AIDS Vaccine Day

19 May - Agender Pride Day

24 May - Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness Day

28 May - LGBTQ Domestic Violence Awareness Day





Pride in Law Calendar 2025



June 2025

PRIDE MONTH!

26 June - LGBT Equality Day

28 June - Stonewall Riots
Anniversary



July 2025

14 July - International Non-
Binary People's Day

16 July - Drag Day



August 2025

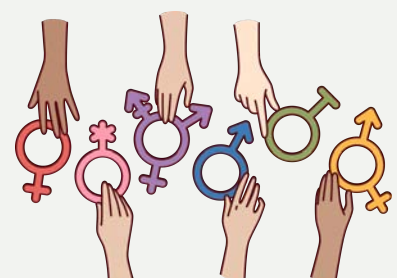
29 August - Wear It
Purple Day

September 2025

20 September - Bisexual
Awareness Week

21 Sept to 27 Sept - Ally Week

23 September - Bi-Visibility Day





Pride in Law Calendar 2025



October 2025

- 1 October - LGBTIQ+ History Month
- 8 October - International Lesbian Day
- 11 October - National Coming Out Day
- 15 October - International Pronouns Day
- 17 Oct to 24 Oct - Genderfluid Visibility Week
- 19 October - Ace Week
- 26 October - Intersex Awareness Day



December 2025

- 1 December - World AIDS Day

November 2025

- 1 November - Trans Awareness Month
- 2 November - Trans Parent Day
- 8 November - Intersex Solidarity Day
- 13 Nov to 19 Nov - Transgender Awareness Week
- 20 November - Transgender Day of Remembrance

Pride in Law NSW encourages you to take these dates as an opportunity to celebrate diversity, equality, and respect in your home, place of learning, and workplace this year, as we work together to build a more inclusive environment and a better future!

Proud Pets

With paws, purrs and pride... Pride in Law NSW is embracing diversity in our furry, feathered and scaly friends!



INTRODUCING...

PRISCILLA, PENNY, PEARL AND “THE BATTLESHIPS”

Paw-rent: **Bethany Kickertt**, Pride in Law NSW Events Officer (she/her)

These hen-some friends live at Beth’s property in Mount Hunter, NSW. Their favourite things include scratching at the ground, following each other around and sitting on eggs that may or may not hatch (sorry girls!).

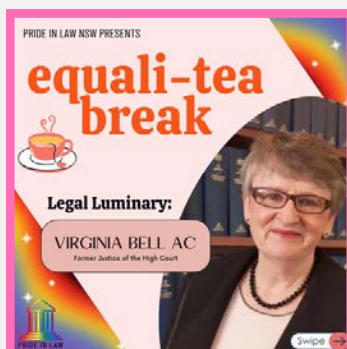
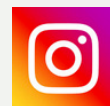
They live in a spacious enclosure, well protected from the local foxes, and are let out to roam as they please when the family is home. The three red chickens are Priscilla, Penny and Pearl, whilst the dark chickens are lovingly named “the battleships” due to their size.

They regularly provide the family with plenty of eggs, and surprisingly love to be picked up and cuddled. They really are im-peck-able pets to have!

Do you have a Proud Pet (or two)? Introduce them to us with some photos and fun facts! Send submissions to communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org

Want more Pride in Law?

FOLLOW @PRIDEINLAW ON



OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE: <https://www.prideinlaw.org/>

Write for us!

This newsletter is a place for you, our members and sponsors! We accept all kinds of submissions, including:

- Feature articles about LGBTIQ+ news or issues
- Spotlight on legal professionals, students or organisations doing great things for LGBTIQ+ people
- Letters from our sponsors or members, about your work, aspirations or journey
- Proud Pets (incl. photos!)
- Any other ideas you might have!

Send submissions to communications.nsw@prideinlaw.org