



# HUMANS OF THE ROYAL

## Edward (Ned) Hanlon (1887-1952)

Born in Paddington in Brisbane on 1 October 1887, Edward (Ned) Hanlon was a railway worker, soldier, grocer and the Premier of Queensland.

The fifth of seven children of London-born Michael Hanlon and his wife Mary Anne (nee Byrne) from Ireland, Ned was educated at Petrie Terrace State School and Brisbane Technical College.

As a schoolboy, Ned worked in his father's milk-delivery business. By 1901 he was a message boy for several barristers before being employed in a grocery shop.

During his teens, Hanlon belonged to the Toowong Workers' Political Organisation. He joined the Queensland Railways Department as a porter in 1903 and was later a shunter.

Hanlon enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force on 11 August 1915, joined the 9th Battalion in Egypt, served on the Western Front, rose to Sergeant and was discharged on 26 August 1919.

He and his brother then set up a grocery business. On 17 April 1922, Ned married Elizabeth Carver at St Brigid's Catholic Church Red Hill.

Ned represented the Paddington District at the 1925 conference which drafted the Australian Labor Party's municipal policy for the first greater Brisbane Council elections.

In 1926, Hanlon won pre-selection for the seat of Ithaca in the Legislative Assembly; he entered Parliament on 8 May and held a seat for the rest of his life.

Hanlon was Minister in charge of health and hospital services for twelve years from 1932, first as Home Secretary and later as Secretary for Health and Home Affairs.

He played a key role in the introduction of Queensland's free state public health system, and the comprehensive network of maternal and child welfare clinics during his time as Minister for Health and Home Affairs (1935 to 1944). He officially opened the Women's Hospital on 13 March 1938.

The Honourable Ned Hanlon was Premier of Queensland from 1946 until his death in 1952 at the age of 64.

