

## Heritage Citation



### Paddington Child Health Centre

#### Key details

<b>Also known as</b>	Maternal & Child Welfare Centre, Paddington
<b>Addresses</b>	At 202 Given Terrace, Paddington, Queensland 4064
<b>Type of place</b>	Monument / memorial, Clinic
<b>Period</b>	Postwar 1945-1960
<b>Style</b>	Functionalist
<b>Lot plan</b>	L894_SL2065
<b>Key dates</b>	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 July 2002 Date of Citation — June 2007
<b>Construction</b>	Walls: Face brick

<b>People/associations</b>	Edward Hanlon (Association)
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<b>Criterion for listing</b>	(A) Historical; (B) Rarity; (E) Aesthetic; (H) Historical association
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Unequivocally Functionalist in design, the Paddington Child Health Centre provides evidence of the provision of maternal and child health services in Brisbane in the 1950s. It is also a memorial to the work of Edward Michael Hanlon, Premier of Queensland between 1946 and 1952 and provides a physical reminder of his work on behalf of mothers and children and in the development of hospitals in the state.

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## History

The Paddington Child Health Centre opened circa 1952 as a memorial to “Ned” Hanlon. As Secretary for Health and Home Affairs in the 1930s and 1940s and Premier of Queensland from 1946 to 1952, Hanlon played an important role in the provision of health services in the state, particularly in Brisbane.

From the turn of the century a greater public commitment to maternal health had emerged, and childcare increasingly became the domain of professional male ‘experts’. Combined with the realisation that Australia was a large country with a low population, motherhood was no longer a private matter but a public duty. A perception existed that Australia needed to ‘populate or perish’ or risk invasion from the Asian nations to the north.

The first clinics were erected in Queensland during the 1920s following the Maternity Act of 1922. The Act was a turning point in the development of health services for women and infants in Queensland. The Act provided for the establishment of maternity hospitals and baby clinics throughout the state. Sixteen baby clinics were erected in a ten year period beginning in 1924. The Paddington clinic was the first to be erected since 1935, and was the first in the Modernist style.

The proposed site for the new clinic was a triangular shaped block of land bounded by Given Terrace and Guthrie Street, Paddington and was inspected by Premier Edward Hanlon in July 1946. Hanlon represented the Brisbane electorate of Ithaca for 26 years, serving in Queensland ministries for a total of just under twenty years, and was Premier of the state from 1946 until his death in 1952.

Between 1932 and 1944 Hanlon had served as Home Secretary and then as Secretary for Health and Home Affairs, during which time he did a great deal to encourage the growth of Queensland’s public hospital system and to improve numerous aspects of social welfare. One of seven children of Irish immigrants, Hanlon was born on 1 October 1887 in the Brisbane working class suburb of Paddington, attending the Red Hill convent and later the Petrie Terrace State School.

Constructed circa 1952, the clinic was designed by Percy Blick, an Architect with the Department of Public Works. It would house separate clinics for babies, young children (1-5 years), expectant mothers and a post-natal clinic. Blick had trained in London and graduated shortly before the war. He immigrated to Australia after the conflict and found employment with the department in 1948.

In 2001 the clinic continues to serve the needs of the parents and children of the local area as the Paddington

Child Health Centre. A plaque on the front of the building reads:

In Memory of The Honourable Edward Hanlon, MLA for Ithaca, Premier of the State of Queensland  
1946-1952, Minister for Health and Home Affairs 1932-1944.

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## Description

This building is an example of the modern architecture of Brisbane in the 1950s. It is built on a triangular shaped block, bounded by Given Terrace and Guthrie Street in Paddington.

The single storey brick building occupies most of its site. It appears to have a flat roof with a parapet around it with a projecting section at the front. Several ventilation grills are visible underneath this projecting section.

The entrance curves wide on a radius projected from the point of intersection of the two streets and is given protection and prominence by a concrete portico supported on blade concrete columns that mirrors this curvature. The entrance is composed of a series of glass French doors with fanlights above.

The building is elevated from street level and has a lower level basement at the rear of the building, and a ramp located at the front.

Although changing medical practices have meant some internal readaptation, the building is remarkably intact and still retains its original signage.

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## Statement of significance

### Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

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### Historical

#### CRITERION A

The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the city's or local area's history

as physical evidence of the Queensland Government's commitment to maternal and child health after the passing of the Maternity Act of 1922.

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## Rarity

### CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as an early example of a purpose built maternal and child health clinic built to a Modernist design with numerous original fittings as well as its innovative use of materials (including the early use of glass louvres on a public building).

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## Aesthetic

### CRITERION E

The place is important because of its aesthetic significance for its architectural qualities; its being unequivocally Functionalist with interesting massing brought about by the sculptural arrangement of external elements, and its juxtaposition on a tight corner site.

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## Historical association

### CRITERION H

The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organization of importance in the city's or local area's history

for its association with long term Paddington resident and Premier of Queensland Edward Hanlon, and for its association of over 50 years with local families who have availed themselves of services offered by the clinic.

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## Supporting images



L. & D. Keen Pty. Ltd. (photographers) for the Royal

Australian Institute of Architects (Queensland Chapter),  
Maternal & Child Welfare Centre, 202 Given Terrace,  
Paddington, c.1959,  
John Oxley Library, State Library of Queensland.

This photograph appears in *Buildings of Queensland* by  
the Royal Australian Institute of Architects, published in  
1959 by Jacaranda Press.

(Description supplied with photograph)



Unidentified photographer,  
'Maternal and Child Welfare Centre - Paddington', 1960,  
Brisbane City Council Library Services, Brisbane City  
Council.

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## References

1. Brisbane City Council Water Supply & Sewerage Detail Plans
2. Department of Natural Resources, Queensland Certificates of title and other records.
3. Fitzgerald, Ross. *From 1915 To The Early 1980's: A History of Queensland*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1984
4. McBride, Frank and Helen Taylor. *Brisbane 100 Stories*. Brisbane: BCC. 1997
5. McKellar's Map of Brisbane and Suburbs. Brisbane: Surveyor-General's Office, 1895
6. Murphy, DJ and Joyce, RB. *Queensland Political Portraits 1859-1952*, University of Queensland Press, St Lucia, 1978
7. Puelar, Margaret and Blake, Thomas. *Queensland Health Heritage Survey*, Vol 1, October 1996

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**Note:** This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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