



Joseph Francis Hannan

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Unionist and Member of Parliament

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Joseph Francis Hannan was born in Glasgow in 1875, the son of James, an iron moulder, and his wife Jane (nee Hay), a nurse. When he was ten, he arrived in Melbourne with his parents and three siblings. The family settled in South Melbourne, where James Hannan resumed his trade as moulder. Joseph worked firstly as a stable hand, then as a moulder before becoming a clerk and trade union official.

In 1903, Hannan married Agnes Theresa Phelan at St Peter and Paul's Roman Catholic Church, South Melbourne. They had two sons and two daughters whom they brought up in South Melbourne.

Known as 'Genial Joe' and a unionist of some note, Hannan was one of the founders of the Victorian Labor Council in 1900, served on its executive for many years, was President for two terms and ultimately served as Federal President. Over the years he was involved in the running of a wide variety of unions. He was President of the Trade Hall Council in 1913 and later served as assistant secretary.

Considered a 'good platform man', Hannan entered politics and was a member of the House of Representatives for Fawkner from 1913 until 1917, but lost his seat on account of his anti-conscription stance. He went on to win Albert Park for Labor in 1918 but resigned a year later to contest his old seat of Fawkner, which he lost. In 1924 he was given a seat in the Senate but was defeated in 1925. He continued to contest various seats, always unsuccessfully, but gave up politics after the death of his wife in 1934. From then until his death at Black Rock in 1943 aged 69, Hannan worked as a travelling salesman.

Hannan is buried in the Roman Catholic section of Coburg Cemetery with his wife, daughter Veronica and two infant grandsons.

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The above information is based on research conducted in 2011-2012 and is presented in good faith by the Friends of Coburg Cemetery. Should family members wish to upgrade existing monuments within this cemetery please email enquiries@gmct.com.au