

**The Queen's Message on the occasion of the Annual Lecture and Dinner of  
the Australian Republican Movement**

I'm feeling very worried as I'm really old and grey  
Some of my children are still at home - they will not move away

What is it about children that they will not leave my home?  
Perhaps they are all fearful they won't manage on their own

But standing on their own two feet, being independent too  
Is what all parents hope their brood will one day want to do

The time has come for them to go, my husband and I say  
But the little blighters still hang around, they will not go away

For heaven's sake I will still care that they are doing well  
Just because they leave home now I won't say, "Go to Hell!"

Over fifty years ago dear God gave purpose to my life  
I've served my role with distinction - I'm much more than Phil's wife

I have listened, smiled and frowned, done all with great aplomb  
Now it's time to downsize for I'm but a little Pom

Please my children set me free - I ask that you think of my health  
Always remember that you'll still remain part of my Commonwealth.