

PHD Completion

The University of Melbourne

Improving Treatment Uptake and Retention in Option B+ Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV in Papua, Indonesia

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Thursday 26th September 1pm-2pm

Seminar Room 410, L4, 207 Bouverie Street, Carlton

HIV infects 2.3% of the general population in Papua, which makes it the only region with a generalized HIV epidemic in Indonesia. Despite the health efforts, Papua documented low uptake and retention in antiretroviral treatment among HIV-positive pregnant women, which resulted in increased new HIV infections in children. Currently, perinatal transmission is the second risk factor for HIV infections in Papua. This research project used mixed-method research designs: in-depth interviews, correlational analysis, and realist synthesis to investigate women's uptake and retention in Option B+ PMTCT in Papua.

Data analysis showed sub-optimal uptake and retention in Option B+ PMTCT in 2017, which is consistent with the national program performance. Further analyses resulted in the identification of factors associated with women's participation, enabling environments, and required mechanisms to achieve the desired PMTCT outcomes. This project proposed several strategies and recommendations to improve women's uptake and retention in Option B+ PMTCT in Papua.



Christina Lumbantoruan is a not-for-profit worker dedicated to helping underserved populations in three Indonesian provinces - Aceh, Papua, and West Papua. She envisions the achievement of health equity for these populations through active involvement of multi-stakeholders and effective program management.

In her works, she engaged the community members and coordinated closely with various health government bodies such as Sub Directorate HIV AIDS and STI of the Ministry of Health, Provincial Health Offices, District Health Offices, Hospitals, and Primary Health Centres. Her roles in not-for-profit projects included Community Health Project Manager, Global Fund Project Coordinator, and Senior Implementation Research Coordinator.