

# Young & Positive

Young & Positive is a series of short films about three young women living with HIV. Collectively and individually they share their experiences of the diagnosis, treatment, fear of death, pregnancy and parenthood, TB, education and making a future, and the possibility of living a normal life. Their inspirational stories weave together the importance of others, family members, children and health care workers who show kindness, love, and support to remain on their HIV treatment.



## FULL OF LIFE (10 minutes)

Maria lives with her sister-in-law in a rural part of Eastern Highlands Province. Rejected by her parents, her sister-in-law – Eggie – provides Maria a safe and supportive place to live where she is accepted. Maria is also supported and encouraged by Patrick, who runs a local Catholic HIV service. Together, Eggie and Patrick ensure Maria is supported to live with HIV and to remain on treatment. Maria shares her dream of love, marriage and a family of her own. Maria's message to others is that there is no shame in living with HIV.



## I GAT HALIVIM I STAP (11 minutes)

Like many young women Esther came to know she had HIV when she was pregnant. She was severely ill when she was diagnosed and through the support of others came to learn she was suffering from TB. Close to death she followed a strict treatment regime for both HIV and TB from which she defaulted. Having a HIV negative baby, Esther has found the most important support from her aunt 'Big Mama' and staff at St Therese Clinic in Port Moresby. Esther now takes her medication faithfully and works as a peer educator providing encouragement to others who face similar challenges.



## I CREATE MY FUTURE (12 minutes)

Living in Morata, Port Moresby, Cathy came to know she was infected with HIV during her pregnancy. Supported by her grandmother, Cathy shares the birth of her HIV-negative child but how in time she grew tired of taking treatment. Having stopped, Cathy returned to Anglicare Stop AIDS where she was supported and nurtured to recommence treatment. Some time on Cathy remains adherent to her treatment, has started a vocational college course and is determined to create a bright future for herself and her son.

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Senior Researcher AGNES MEK  
Camera DILEN DOIKI  
Editing ELIAS ALEX, VERENA THOMAS  
Producer VERENA THOMAS  
Executive Producer ANGELA KELLY-HANKU

Total Running Time  
33 minutes

Language  
Tok Pisin and English, with English Subtitles

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