## Acknowledgements

I would like express my sincerest gratitude and deepest appreciation to my supervisor, Professor Don McNeil, for his helpful guidance, support and invaluable assistance throughout the completion of the thesis. Thanks also to my co-supervisors, Assistance Professor Chamnein Choonpradub and Dr Phattawan Tongkumchum, for their encouragement and suggestions. Also thanks to Greig Rundle for editing my English. I gratefully thank the Thailand Bureau of Policy and Strategy and the National Health Security Office, Ministry of Public Health, for generously providing the data. I would like to acknowledge Graduate School, Prince of Songkla University for funding this study.

Finally, I would like to thank my parents, siblings and friends for their encouragement Paitani Can throughout my study.

Apiradee Lim