

## **Can you still choose to be Māori?**

Currently, in NZ when taking the Census any person can Identify as Māori, by removing the Census we would now remove that choice from people. Some key features of the Census are that ethnicity is recognised by the individual, and it is different from being a Māori descendant. By switching to form a population from primarily administrative datasets, (e.g: Vehicle Registration, Criminal records, Tax databases, and electoral rolls), this would no longer be asked, and it would be assumed for us without our knowledge or input. By letting unrelated datasets decide our ethnicity instead, we introduce the risk misrepresentation in the population by either over or under estimation. This Directly undermines the Māori principle of Manaakitanga, the Reciprocity of data and the consent of the data's collection and its interpretation. As Stats NZ would be interpreting the data on behalf of Māori, this also goes against the Māori Principle of Kaitiakitanga and the Māori's right in guardianship over their data. Therefore, for this proposal I would advise the implementation of a way for people to choose. When the data is collated, each person must be given the choice back to identify their ethnicity on their own accord.

197 Words