

Risks and solutions to Māori Data Sovereignty for canceling traditional Census

Replacing the traditional census with IDI admin data may remove the right for Māori to participate in defining their iwi and descent. This weakens Rangatiratanga (Māori authority and control over data) while Wai2522 and 2575 says Māori Data is a Taonga, so it should be cared for under Māori Kaitiakitanga (guardianship). Also because some of the IDI admin data system may not collect iwi or descent, Māori counts and iwi can be wrong so we may not still capture what Māori need, key inputs for Māori decisions are missing.

In order to solve these risks, I suggest to keep an annual self-ID survey such as ethnicity, iwi and descent and link it to IDI for keeping the Māori Data. Also the government can set up a organization of Māori Data and give the right for them with final say on wording and use so that increase the participation of Māori in the new system.

153 words