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### Risk to Māori Data Sovereignty: Whakapapa

Stopping the traditional Census creates a clear risk for Māori Data Sovereignty, especially with Whakapapa (genealogy and relationships). The Census was the main way to record Māori descent, ethnicity, and iwi. Administrative data, like health or tax records, can show basic ethnicity, but they do not include iwi or whakapapa details. This means Māori identity may not be fully shown.

If whakapapa data is missing, the impact is significant. Māori communities could lose resources in funding, policy design, and Treaty negotiations because there is no clear evidence about iwi populations. It also makes it harder for Māori to plan their future and protect their identity. This risk goes against the MDS principle of *Authority to Control*, because Māori may lose the right to decide how their whakapapa data is collected and used.

To reduce this risk, Stats NZ should work directly with Māori in making the new system. Māori need to help decide what whakapapa data is collected and how it is stored. This shows Manaakitanga (respect and care) and supports Kaitiakitanga (guardianship) by keeping sensitive data safe. In this way, Stats NZ can keep Māori trust and make sure the new Census meets their needs.

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