

Written Advice on Maori Data Governance and Sovereignty

Using administrative data through the IDI, ignoring the traditional Census, could create problems for Maori Data Sovereignty. The Maori principles of rangatiratanga and whakapapa (control and context) mean that Maori should have power over their data, and it should accurately represent Maori communities. Without a full Census, there could be inaccurate counts of Maori people, iwi affiliations, or cultural and social information. This may make it harder for Māori to plan for their communities or make important decisions. It could also break Whanaungatanga and Kotahitanga (relationships and benefit for the group) because Maori could be excluded from decision making for how their data could be used or collected.

Stats NZ could actively involve Maori in developing the new Census approach to reduce the risk of inaccurate counts. This includes consulting Moari iwi (tribes) and data experts to ensure cultural identity is included in data collection and being involved in data decision making. This approach ensures that Stats NZ can guarantee the administrative Census reflects the Maori identity, as well as protect their control over data and support in decision making. Having Maori in the process will build an increasing trust and maintain the integrity of national statistics.

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