

Rangatiratanga and the scrapping of the census

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Removing the census and replacing it with IDI means that it can't effectively measure data about the Māori population. As doing so means there is no Māori involvement in governance of data repositories. This is because most of the data in the IDI is from administrative sources. Māori trust in all public sector is lowest among all ethnic groups.¹ So, data measured from public services are unlikely to be faithful to Māori people's views.

Removing Māori governance of data is likely to only further decrease trust and cause more problems. This is because it goes against the Māori Data governance concept of Rangatiratanga. As Māori people don't have control over data that relates to them.

This can be somewhat alleviated by using Maori data audit tools². To check that data complies with Māori data sovereignty principle. As well as creating a role for Māori data steward that is equal level to chief data steward. This would mean resources would go directly into supporting Māori data sovereignty by the government.

170 words

¹ <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/data/kiwis-count>

² <https://www.temanararaunga.maori.nz/s/Mori-Data-Audit-Tool.pdf>