

**ADVICE TO THE GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN ON THE IMPACT OF THE CENSUS
REFORM UPON MĀORI DATA SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNANCE**

One major risk of the proposed shift away from a traditional census and towards the use of Administrative Datasets is the undermining of Māori Data Sovereignty.

The use of Māori data which has been gathered for unrelated purposes such as healthcare, and which will now be used without informed consent for the purposes of the new census approach, breaches the Māori Data Sovereignty Principle of rangatiratanga. Rangatiratanga, as guaranteed in article two of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, is most easily conceived of as equivalent to the modern concept of self-determination, though this of course misses the many cultural and historical differences between the two ideas. Within the framework of Māori Data Sovereignty rangatiratanga is broadly defined as “authority”.

By taking Māori data in an extractive manner without obtaining the consent of those individuals and/or groups to whom the data pertains, Statistics NZ will be eroding both Māori rangatiratanga over the taonga of Māori data as well as Māori trust in Statistics NZ as an institution.

The only path forward which would uphold Māori Data Sovereignty is for the new census method to be rebuilt with the full involvement of Māori Data Sovereignty experts and input from Te Iwi Māori.

Word count: 199