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### **Written Advice on Māori Data Governance and Sovereignty**

The new census data collection based primarily on admin data creates risks for Māori Data Sovereignty (MDS). By moving towards using admin data for the census, Māori are at risk as they will have less authority over their data. The government needs to consider Te Tiriti o Waitangi if they are to use Māori data for the census moving forward. Māori have sovereignty over Māori data, and the new census structure has a high risk that Te Mana Raraunga principles are not being followed. The structure for consent needs to be addressed with risks such as storage of Māori data, and areas where consent for Māori data might not be feasible is not currently being addressed in the changes.

To mitigate the risks, there needs to be a Mana Motuhake data system that is independent. This means that Māori should be able to decide on what Māori data is shared and what is not which is also a concern for all New Zealanders and their data under the new census structure. Māori should have Kaitiakitanga over Māori data and the government needs to follow through on their promises to work in partnership with iwi-Māori to support Māori needs.

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