

# Scrapping the Census Threatens Māori Data Sovereignty

Removing the full enumeration census is not a minor change, it risks erasing Maori voices from our countries record. Administrative data may count numbers, but it can't count people. Instead it poses the risk of misclassifying, overlooking our Maori communities. It's more than a technical shift in the way we collect our contries data. It poses a threat to Maori data sovereignty, which is the right of Maori to control and manage their data. I believe that its important for StatsNZ to partner with Te Mana Raruanga, to embed iwi led Maori data governance. Honouring MDS is essential and without it the new census will fall short of representing not only Maori communities but also other Minorities.