Protect iwi visibility

Moving from a full-enumeration Census to an IDI-first model can make iwi and hapū invisible. Admin data shows service contact, not residence, and different ethnicity, descent, and iwi fields plus linkage errors strip context. That breaks Whakapapa—relationships and context—and weakens Kaitiakitanga, the stewardship of data quality.

Misestimated denominators push funding and programmes the wrong way. We also miss the goal of "the right services, at the right time, in the right way" and a "trusted and safe data ecosystem." With the IDI flagged for life-course risk models, treating correlation as cause means small communities wear the errors—this slides toward data colonialism.

Follow the lecture's Authority recommendation: set up an autonomous or independent Māori data entity that faces both Kāwanatanga and Te Ao Māori. Give it real levers—clear roles, responsibilities, policy and legislative settings, and stable funding. Let it co-define ethnicity, descent, and iwi variables and linkage rules, require iwi-level quality audits, and approve any calibration before the IDI is used for major allocations. This honours Kaitiakitanga and helps rebuild trust.

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