

Title: Violation of Kaitiakitanga of Māori data

One of the key principles of Māori data sovereignty (MDS) is Kaitiakitanga (Guardianship). In the context of Māori data sovereignty, this means that Māori should have the authority to decide how Māori data is stored, accessed, and protected in ways consistent with tikanga and Māori values.

The new census, which is primarily based on Stats NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI), raises significant concerns about the Kaitiakitanga of Māori data. The IDI combines data collected from multiple organisations, including non-government organisations. Māori were not asked for consent in the use of this data in a government integrated system. This is in breach of Section 6.3 of the MDS principles, which states, 'Māori shall decide which Māori data shall be controlled (tapu) or open (noa) access'. The IDI also does not account for the context and purpose for which the data was initially collected.

To mitigate this risk, Stats NZ should work with Māori governance groups to review existing Māori data held in the IDI, ensuring Māori have a say in which data is used. In future, any data being recorded that may be used in the IDI should be made fully known to Māori and consented to by Māori.

Word Count: 199