**DATA 422 Māori Data Assignment**

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Scrapping the census in favour of administrative data creates substantial risks for Māori data sovereignty and governance. Without direct engagement, information is no longer gathered with the consent of those it concerns. This undermines the principles of *Whakapapa* (relationships) and *Manaakitanga* (reciprocity) and directly conflicts with the Māori Data Sovereignty principle of Rangatiratanga, which recognises Māori rights to control the collection and use of their own data.

The quality and scope of administrative data are also currently inferior to census data. For instance, there are no reliable, population-wide iwi datasets derived from administrative sources. This fails to uphold the principle of quality and integrity, identified by *Te Mana Raraunga* as essential to Māori data sovereignty. Relying solely on administrative sources risks weakening the evidence base required for equitable decision-making, undermining the principle of Kotahitanga.

Mitigating these risks requires the active involvement of Māori in the design and collection of data, alongside clear transparency about how information will be used. This aligns with the principle of Whanaungatanga, ensuring protection against potential harm and building trust with iwi, hapū, and whānau. Finally, significant resources must be invested to fill existing gaps, whether through supplementary sources or targeted surveys that reflect community realities.

Word Count: 200 words (excluding title).