**The Risk Census Scrapping Poses to Māori Data Sovereignty**

The decision to scrap the nationwide census in favour of the use of administrative datasets poses a risk to the idea of Māori data sovereignty and data rights. The principle of Whakapapa is a relevant example.

Whakapapa is the principle of Relationships. This principle entails that data should have context (accurate metadata). However, administrative data often lacks the exact context needed to capture Māori communities.

Data disaggregation also needs to be considered, as administrative data lacks the necessary level of detail. The data should be separated into descent, iwi, and ethnicity, but it isn’t traditionally. This lack of disaggregation poses a risk to having inaccurate visibility of the Māori community.

Finally, future use is another key factor. Poor-quality data that might have been misused could lead to underfunding of essential community services, inequalities and poor policy making.

Overall, without Māori data governance, the Māori community could be misrepresented in this new census proposal, which could lead to loss of trust in both data services and in Stats NZ, which could be hard to gain back. To help combat this, Stats NZ should involve māori in the creation of a system that aligns with all parts of the principle of Whakapapa.