**Advice about Cancel Census**

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Cancelling the Census violates the first principle of Māori Data Sovereignty, Authority. Māori must be involved in decisions about the primary collection, analysis, and interpretation of Māori data. When authority sits outside Māori communities, rangatiratanga is curtailed.

This may result in Māori identities becoming optional or inconsistently derived. That will erase whakapapa and narrow what counts as valid evidence. This can lead to undercount and misclassification of iwi/hapū/descent, misaligned funding and service provision. Algorithmic uses of IDI can then amplify bias and harm. A key goal of Māori data governance should be to protect against future harm.

And trust in Stats NZ may decline, reducing participation in future collections.

I argue that for Māori communities, the original Census approach should be maintained. In addition, an independent Māori ethics panel should be established to review IDI linkages and uses, ensuring that Māori voices guide both governance and practice.