**Written Critique**

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**Māori Data Sovereignty**

Scrapping the traditional Census poses a major risk to Māori Data Sovereignty. This is because of Stats NZ using administrative datasets through their Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). This overlooks the 3rd Māori Data Sovereignty Pou of Data collection. This is because the datasets haven’t been designed with Māori Data Sovereignty in mind.

Without using the Māori Data Sovereignty principles in the new Census approach, Stats NZ risks reflecting the interests of the dominant population due to the data being extracted and repurposed without Māori input. This has the potential to misrepresent Māori in the census, which would weaken the relationship between iwi’s and Stats NZ. This has the potential to also undermine whakapapa connections and limits the ability of iwi and hapū to exercise tino rangatiratanga in decision-making. Tino rangatiratanga means absolute sovereignty, and it refers to the power that Māori chiefs have over their territories and people.

To mitigate this risk Stats NZ needs to use the correct data governance techniques when dealing with Māori data. In total there are 8 Pou (Posts) for Stats NZ to keep in mind when they are creating this new census. By doing this they create desirable outcomes for themselves and for Māori.

Word Count: 200