**Zijie Zhou – 76054753**

**Protecting Rangatiratanga in an Admin-Only Census**

Replacing the full Census with an IDI-only approach risks displacing Māori authority over definitions, classifications and consent. That directly conflicts with Māori Data Sovereignty principles—**Rangatiratanga** (authority), **Whakapapa** (context/relationships), **Kotahitanga** (collective benefit) and **Kaitiakitanga** (guardianship). Because administrative datasets are built for transactions, they inconsistently capture descent, iwi affiliation and multi-ethnic identities, and their categories are set by agencies rather than Māori. The result is undercount and misclassification, followed by misallocated health and education funding, less effective services, and renewed data colonialism that erodes trust. This is not a technical quibble but a Treaty issue.

**Mitigation:** Make the new census **Tiriti-led** and co-governed. Establish an independent Māori data entity/**Chief Māori Data Steward** with decision rights over classifications, linkage, consent and publication. Co-design and publish Māori definitions and classification standards; set collection and tikanga-informed consent pathways and iwi-led access/repatriation; require quality audits, linkage rules and algorithmic impact assessments with Māori oversight. Publish annual **coverage-gap** metrics for Māori variables and run targeted **supplementary enumeration** where gaps persist. Ensure Māori participation across the entire statistical pipeline so “data for governance” is matched by “governance of data.”

**Word count:** 182