**Māori Data Sovereignty**

Scrapping the Census and replacing it with administrative datasets poses a risk to Māori Data Sovereignty, especially to the principle of Rangatiratanga (Authority). Administrative datasets won’t include the entire population, which means that some Māori data, including data about their iwi affiliation, descent, and ethnicity, won’t be collected, defined, and stored. If Māori are not able to exercise authority over this Māori data, there is a significant risk for Māori to become misrepresented in the data. Because this Māori population data won’t be accurate and relevant, then this could have a negative impact on things such as funding allocation, and iwi and hapu planning. If Māori are not able to control and have authority over how data is collected or how it is used, then it will have a negative impact on the ability for Māori to self-govern. My suggestion to mitigate this posed risk is for Stats NZ should make sure that they should work with iwi leaders and consult the Māori community about how they should collect Māori data for the new Census. By upholding the principle of Rangatiratanga, Stats NZ can remove the risk to Māori Data Sovereignty.

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