Exclusion of rangatiratanga in the new census Model

The conversion of full census based approach to a data administrative model can lead to compromising Māori data Sovereignty, especially the principle of **Rangatiratanga**. The census allows Māori to identify their descent, iwi, and other traits of Whakapapa. On the other hand, administrative data models are not built for prioritizing Māori and can end up misclassifying these traits or identifiers. The impact of these can be very severe. The reduction in accuracy can lead to misclassifying iwi and descent information causing Māori to lose their allocated resources and design policies as well as other assets. This would also end up violating **Kotahitanga** and **Kaitiakitanga** of the Māori data sovereignty.

In order to avoid this, Stats NZ could embed Māori governance while designing the new model. This can include many possible collaborative instances such as taking suggestions from iwi representatives on how to ensure self-identification is still possible and making sure that reciprocity of data being shared is maintained. This would make it a bit more flexible in honouring the Treaty principles at the same time ensuring that the data administrative model is support of Māori data sovereignty.