# Māori Data Governance and Sovereignty

Scrapping the Census as we know it poses major risks for Māori Data governance and sovereignty, namely through the principle of Rangatiratanga (Authority). Traditionally, the census has allowed Māori to self-identify themselves as Māori and select their iwi/hapu, giving Māori control over how their identity is defined. However, the newly proposed administrative datasets may not give Māori that opportunity, as well as not recording important information such as one’s whakapapa or lineage. This in turn unfairly represents Māori, diminishing their culture, and means that this important information is not available to those looking to help Māori.

Stats NZ should therefore design the new census in collaboration with Māori, ensuring that they are properly represented and have control over their own data and what is recorded/collected. This in turn ensures that the Rangatiratanga of Māori over themselves and their data is upheld.

141 words