Protecting Māori Collective Benefit in Census Changes

Using administrative data and removing the traditional Census could cause some problems for the Māori community.

Following the Collective Benefit principle, the biggest risk is that Māori population might be underestimated , which could mean insufficient services, unfair allocation of funding, or poor policy decisions. For example, healthcare resources, education support and so on may be affected by the wrong number counts. Also, if we went through again something like COVID, having wrong data could even mean some people don’t get help when they really need it.

To help the Māori community properly, Stats NZ should work together with Māori communities to make sure everyone is counted, including descent, ethnicity and iwi.

What’s more, regular community consultation and even extra surveys could also make a difference in helping fill the gaps.

In this way, the data actually shows what’s happening in Māori communities and follows the Collective Benefit principle, helping resources and services be fairer and more useful.

158words