

CO-DESIGNING MĀORI DATA GOVERNANCE

The co-design of a Māori data governance (MDG) model is one of four workstreams of the Mana Ōrite Work Programme between Stats NZ and the Data Iwi Leaders Group (DILG) of the National Iwi Chairs Forum (NICF). This is a high priority initiative for the Government Chief Data Steward and Stats NZ that will provide the New Zealand government with a unique opportunity to develop an approach to data governance that reflects te ao Māori needs and interests in data.

Our challenge

Governance of the current official data system has not been designed in partnership with Iwi Māori. Nor do we have a te ao Māori lens across the wider official data system that may support both Iwi Māori and government aspirations for data.

This has resulted in challenges like:

- A lack of trust and confidence by Iwi Māori in the official data system.
- Inadequate meaningful Iwi Māori participation in that system, including at governance levels.
- Missed opportunities for Iwi Māori to add value to the official data system through te ao Māori insights and innovations.
- Government agencies have (or plan to) implement parallel work streams (including multiple Māori data advisory groups) to address Māori data sovereignty and/or Iwi Māori rights and interests in data.
- These workstreams are occurring in a disparate way and are 'stretching' the capacity of the currently limited pool of Iwi Māori data experts capable of engaging in this space.

What is the strategic opportunity?

We now have a unique strategic opportunity to enable Iwi Māori to add value to the official data system through te ao Māori insights and innovations. This opportunity will benefit both Iwi Māori and government agencies.

For Iwi Māori:

- In a post-Treaty settlement era, there is increased focus on data to better inform Iwi Māori strategy, policy and planning to achieve positive, sustainable outcomes for both Iwi Māori and all New Zealanders.
- There is increased focus on developing Iwi Māori capability to engage with data and the official data system.
- There is an opportunity to support government agencies to provide better policy development and service delivery for Iwi Māori.
- A significant increase across agencies in Māori-related data workstreams that are occurring in a disparate manner without any strategic co-ordination. This is resulting in inefficient use of government resource and inconsistency in government advice, outputs and outcomes
- The same data activity across government is putting unsustainable pressure on the limited pool of Māori data experts available to provide guidance across government agencies and the data system.

For government agencies:

- Current, system-wide data governance developments can be informed by partnership with Iwi Māori and reflect a more integrated approach to enhancing the Crown's relationship with Māori.
- The Government Chief Data Steward, the Digital Government Leadership Group and government agencies can access te ao Māori insights and innovations when addressing immediate or emerging official data challenges.
- We can align with Minister of Māori-Crown Relations' adoption of a system-wide, integrated approach to engaging with Iwi Māori to improve the effectiveness of Crown policy and actions, including those concerning data.

Value proposition

Develop a MDG model that improves how Iwi Māori partners can work with government to add value to the wider official data system. Improved partnership will support:

- A cohesive, system-wide MDG model to ensure consistent, positive outcomes for both Iwi Māori and New Zealand.
- The wider data system and government agencies to benefit from te ao Māori insights and innovation about data and its uses.
- Improved system-wide policy development and service delivery that is informed by te ao Māori insight and innovation.
- More meaningful and effective Iwi Māori participation, trust and confidence in data and the official data system.

Our solution

For Iwi Māori to work in collaboration with government agencies to co-design a MDG model for the official data system; a Treaty-based co-design process that appropriately reflects the Treaty partnership between Iwi Māori and the Crown. As such, it will be co-led by the DILG and Stats NZ, and facilitated by an independent, co-design expert.

The co-design process will serve at least two purposes. First, to co-design a MDG model for the official data system. Second, in the process of doing this, address immediate and emerging Māori data challenges across the official system. Learnings from this process will be synthesised and transferred for potential system-wide use in other sectors.

The DILG will bring together the 'Te Ao Māori' group made up of Māori data experts representative of te ao Māori; that is, both iwi and Māori stakeholders.

Stats NZ will bring together a Kāwanatanga (government) co-design group that is representative of key government agencies that have an interest in MDG.

Measuring our success

Our success will look like:

1. A co-designed data governance model created by Iwi Māori and the Crown.
2. An evaluation of the co-design process and implementation by the data system.
3. The identification of any unintended opportunities, outcomes and learnings from this process.

Kāwanatanga agencies

The following agencies have accepted an invitation from Stats NZ CE/GS and GCDS to join the Kāwanatanga co-design group: DIA-GCDO, TPK, MSD, OT, Privacy Commission, IR, MoJ, MoE, SWA, LINZ, MBIE, MoH, NZ Police.

Preparing for co-design: Thought Leadership group

In preparation for the co-design wānanga, Stats NZ has established a cross-agency Thought Leadership group tasked with thinking deeply about the impacts and opportunities of a MDG model and to engage in the conversations needed to produce a discussion paper. This paper will be provided to the Kāwanatanga co-design group members to enable them to meaningfully participate in the co-design discussions.

Key dates

Jul – Aug	Planning and preparation, Thought Leadership group wānanga
Sep - Oct	Co-design wānanga between Te Ao Māori and Kāwanatanga groups
Nov	Develop and confirm model
Dec	Final report for MDG model and evaluation submitted.

Contact

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