**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 Māori needs and interests in data.

**Background and strategic opportunity**

We have a unique strategic opportunity to enable Iwi-Māori to add value to the official data ecosystem through te ao Māori insights and innovations. This opportunity will provide mutual benefits to both Iwi-Māori and government agencies in relation to Māori-Crown relationships.

The mutual benefits include:

* A cohesive, system-wide MDG model created by Iwi-Maori and government agencies to ensure consistent, positive outcomes
* The wider data system and government agencies can benefit from te ao Māori insights and innovation about Māori data and its uses
* Improved system-wide policy development and service delivery that is informed by te ao Māori insights and innovation
* Realising Māori data aspirations, ensuring meaningful and effective Iwi-Māori participation, building trust and confidence in data and the official data system.
* Capability development throughout the data system through understanding and use of the model

The MDG model can be applied to benefit other indigenous communities and indigenous communities, demonstrating NZ governments unique relationship with iwi/Māori.

**Release of Māori Data Governance reports**

A MDG co-design process has been co-led by the Data ILG and Stats NZ, with two groups of participants – iwi and Māori (the Te Ao Māori group), and government (the Kāwanatanga group), facilitated by independent consultants. Co-design wānanga took place in late 2021.

The facilitation team have produced two reports based on the reflections from those wānanga–

1. Tawhiti Nuku, Māori Data Governance Co-design Report on the outcomes of the co-design process and its recommended next steps for progressing
2. Māori Data Governance Co-design Review, which focuses on the process of co-design. These are available online and be requested via [here](https://www.kahuiraraunga.io/tawhitinuku)

**Next steps**

A key theme that emerged from the co-design wānanga is the metaphor of a waka hourua (double-hulled ocean voyaging waka), whereby each hull represents the Te Ao Māori and Kāwanatanga groups respectively.

Amongst other recommendations, a particular focus is fleshing out the possible establishment of a Māori Chief Data Steward, which would align with the role of the Government Statistician and Government Chief Data Steward but applying a te ao Māori perspective to decision-making about Māori data.

The reports also include a co-design continuum, which can be applied across the data system and across government when making decisions about levels of engagement in co-design processes and working with Māori-Crown relationships.

Te Ao Māori and Kāwanatanga groups have agreed to form an Ohu raraunga (working group) to continue the momentum on refining, testing and implementing the MDG model, based on the waka hourua and Māori Chief Data Steward concepts. The Ohu will identify Pae Tata and Pae Tawhiti - short, medium and long-term outcomes. The Ohu will be a small working group with members from the Kāwanatanga and Te Ao Maori groups.

**Te Ao Māori/ Kāwanatanga/Crown Thought Leadership/ Ohu (working group)**

We would like to acknowledge the following people/organisations who formed the Te Ao Māori co-design group: Data Iwi Leaders Group, Kāhui Raraunga Charitable Trust and their technical advisors, Kāhui Legal, NZ Māori Council, Te Mana Raraunga members, Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu, Te Rōpū whakakaupapa Urutā - National Māori Pandemic Group, Tūhono Trust, Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toka i te Ora - Māori Women’s Welfare League, Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency.

The following agencies were part of the Kāwanatanga co-design group: Department of Internal Affairs, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, Privacy Commission, Inland Revenue, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Social Wellbeing Agency, Land Information NZ, Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Health, NZ Police.

Representatives from these agencies also joined a cross-agency Crown Thought Leadership group (CTLG) which is tasked with deep diving into the impacts and opportunities of the model. Stats NZ will continue to engage with this group and the Kāwanatanga group as the MDG model is refined.

 We would like to acknowledge the enthusiasm and willingness of other key agencies to engage with this kaupapa

**Key dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| August/September | Stand up of Ohu Raraunga |
| September onwards | Formation of strategy and pathway to embedding the model – resourcing, capability and capacity, legislation and policyRefining, testing and implementing MDG model  |

**Contact**

MDG project team at Stats NZ: tetohu@stats.govt.nz

**Te Waka Hourua**



 Image courtesy of Georgia McConnon

The waka hourua concept is an outcome of the co-design workshops and is a metaphor that captures the aspiration of a high-level approach to Māori Data Governance.