

Data Ethics Advisory Group

The Data Ethics Advisory Group is formed of independent experts to provide advice to government agencies on issues relating to data use and innovation. The Group was established in July 2019 with the aim of empowering agencies to use data effectively and innovatively whilst managing risks in order to maintain the trust and confidence of New Zealanders. You can find current details of the Group, its work and its members on the data.govt.nz website.

Thank you for bringing your item before the Data Ethics Advisory Group. It was great to have you with us and we hope you found the discussion valuable.

Feedback in summary:

The Group commends the Ngā Tikanga Paihere framework as a great example of a collaborative way of working in partnership with Iwi/Māori to create better outcomes for all of Aotearoa New Zealand. The Group shared the concerns from the presenting group that the framework might be seen as a substitute for proper engagement with Iwi/Māori and commends future efforts to help users understand how the framework can be used.

Members were impressed that:

- In the process of developing the Ngā Tikanga Paihere framework, thoughtful engagement with Māori and iwi experts was apparent.
- This a great example of a collaborative way of working in partnership to create better outcomes for all of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- The framework, developed in partnership with the IDI, has innovated existing processes and has had a real and meaningful impact on culture within Stats NZ. The members were impressed with the lessons learned by the team.

Members had concerns:

- Around the practical implementation of the framework. We agree with the presenting team that there is a risk that the framework might be seen as a substitute for proper engagement with Iwi/Māori and/or might be used for unintended purposes.
- There are other interpretations of tikanga, and the framework should be clear about the concepts that underpin it. The team discussed this in depth and agreed that there is scope to document this approach to make the origins of the framework clear for later iteration.

Members recommend that:

- Users of the framework are assisted to understand that the framework is not a substitute for engagement with Iwi/Māori and how the framework can be best used.
- The team maintains flexibility if researchers and users have different interpretations of their own tikanga.

Members noted that:

- The framework should line up with the Te Ara Tika Guidelines for Māori research ethics (Pūtaiora Writing Group) and complement other existing frameworks.
- Overall, Ngā Tikanga Paihere is a very positive framework and would like to commend the team on the work they have done.
- They thoroughly enjoyed this session and thank the presenters for their energy and commitment to inclusive data ethics.

We look forward to hearing from you in the future

The Group would be very happy to provide any further guidance if this framework evolves or changes.

Please get in touch with the Group's secretariat should you have any questions about the guidance you have received. We are always delighted to hear from you.

We would also note that the Group reserves the right to extend an invitation to the Minister where they are concerned that their guidance has been misinterpreted or applied in bad faith.