

20 December 2021

Committee Secretariat  
Governance and Administration Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington



By email: [ga@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:ga@parliament.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe

### **Data and Statistics Bill – Government Bill**

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) and Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa (Te Rūnanga) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Data and Statistics Bill.

NZNO and Te Rūnanga is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa, New Zealand, representing 54,572 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment matters. NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to improving the health status and outcomes of all people of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment, and social policy development.

Furthermore, we share the Ministry of Health's definition of equity, which equally applies to NZNO work across professional, industrial and member activities.

NZNO and Te Rūnanga have consulted with members and staff to prepare this response. We support the Government's intention to repeal the Statistics Act 1975 (the Act) and replace it with a new Data and Statistics Act that is to:

- recognise the Crown's responsibility to consider and provide for Māori interests in data and statistics that gives effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- enable more effective system leadership
- strengthen and future-proof framework for collecting data
- modernise framework for accessing data for research
- provide appropriate safeguards and protections to ensure public trust and confidence in the collection and use of data for official statistics and research,
- remove barriers to the provision of data to Statistics New Zealand, and
- provide for equivalent Stats NZ products to be used where specified products are substituted or discontinued.

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Recently, NZNO and Te Rūnanga provided feedback on the Department of Internal Affairs, Te koke ki tētahi Rautaki Matihiko mō Aotearoa (Towards a Digital Strategy for Aotearoa) and the Ministry of Health's, Paerewa Parongo Hauora (Health Information Standards Organisation Māori Descent and Iwi affiliation Data Protocols) (attached). Both submissions raised concerns regarding breaches of human rights as tāngata whenua and the public in general, lack of accessibility, collection, and use in terms of information sharing, sovereignty, and intellectual property. Subsequently, the concerns raised are universal and support justifications for the current repeal to replace this Act.

As the new Data and Statistics Act states it is to effectively remove barriers by including principles that provide meaningful and early engagement with Māori, clarify obligations to provide mandatory data requested and/or authorised for official statistical purposes and modernise data collection capabilities, particularly for the census. In following these new intentions, we recommend that all feedback relating to statistics and data capabilities be shared to inform and guide the national future data intelligence transformation, including responses on statistics and data relating to other primary new legislation such as Pae Ora – Healthy Futures Bills. As we understand, there are new digital and data platforms that the health workforce and consumers are to engage and trust. Therefore, the new Data and Statistics Act must provide specific statutory provisions that meet the demand for all end-users across all sectors of health, education, social, and justice systems.

NZNO and Te Rūnanga are optimistic that the current overhaul of all data systems and associated provisions and legislation will provide an equitable, safe, and protected system that guarantees equity, tino rangatiratanga, and choice through active full participation and protection.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this bill.

Nāku noa nā



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