

Review of the Measurement of Ethnicity

Foon ying, Selamat datang, Haere mai, Welcome,
Wilkommen, Soyez bienvenue, Talofa lava, Huan Ying, Kia orana, Malo e lelei,
Fakalofa lahiatu, Ni sa bula vinaka, Namaste, Tena koe, Helo ola keta, Talohani, Noa ia,
Kamshor, Lei ho, Mabuhay, Ni hao, Buenos dias, Sawat dii khrap, Ne hou,
Konnichi wa, Ciao, Jum riap suor, Wilkom

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Welcome and haere mai to the first newsletter from the Review of the Measurement of Ethnicity project team at Statistics New Zealand.

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Introducing the review team

The review team are staff from Statistics New Zealand. They are:

Project Manager

Sharon Evans (Wellington office of Statistics New Zealand),

Team Members

Kate Lang and Darren Whiu, Social Policy Division (Wellington),
Jo-anne Allan and Lysandra Marshall, Classifications and Standards
Section (Christchurch).



Why have a review?

There is a need to make the measurement of ethnicity in official social statistics as relevant and useful as possible to both users of statistics and to the public who are the suppliers of the information. Official statistics are statistics collected by government and public agencies such as hospitals.



The last review of ethnic statistics was completed in 1988. Since then, there have been changes in the needs of users of the statistics, the ethnic make up of the New Zealand population and the collection and use of ethnicity data by government and other agencies.

The purpose of the review is to re-examine the concepts and measurements of ethnicity that have been in use since the last review. The plan is to update these if required, taking into account the views of members of ethnic groups, as well as producers and users of ethnic statistics.

Consultation with stakeholders

Stakeholders are individuals or groups that have an interest in a particular subject or undertaking. The project team will consult with a wide range of stakeholders during the review. This will include seeking the views of Māori, Pacific peoples and the Migrant Forum. As this is a review of the entire ethnic classification, many groups, including government, community and academics, will be asked their point of view.

Statistics New Zealand will provide background material about how ethnicity is classified. Other information regarding overseas practice, and issues for New Zealand, will be made available by the review team. When discussions between stakeholders and the project team start in 2001, they are likely to cover topics such as:

- the reasons for collecting ethnicity data
- how ethnicity is defined in New Zealand
- how groups can be measured

- different methods of collecting ethnicity information
- classifying and coding ethnicity information
- making the information available.

If you are interested in being a stakeholder or would like more information about the project, please contact Sharon Evans on (04) 495-4660 or Kate Lang on (04) 495-4738 or Jo-anne Allan on (03) 374-8858.



Terms of reference

These are firm guidelines which the project team will work within.

- 1 To evaluate the concepts of ethnicity that are used in official social statistics.
- 2 To define and categorise 'ethnicity', after exploring its association with variables such as nationality, 'race', ancestry, identity, and citizenship.
- 3 To produce a revised statistical standard for ethnicity, and for any applications of it, such as prioritisation and measuring strength of identity.
- 4 To take account of the need for the standard to measure all ethnic groups currently in New Zealand, and be robust enough to measure new groups arriving in the next ten years.
- 5 To obtain a balance between the need for contemporary relevance and historical continuity.
- 6 To produce a report for the Government Statistician, which contains recommendations on the measurement of ethnicity for at least the next ten years.
- 7 To produce a plan for implementing the review's recommendations, across all official social statistics.
- 8 To carry out the project with regard to Statistics New Zealand's commitment to the Crown's obligation to Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi.
- 9 To complete the review by mid-2002, so as to contribute to the development of the 2006 Census of Population.

Timetable

Part one	Part two
1. Discussion with users, producers and those answering ethnic questions, followed by:	1. Analysis of the results from the 2001 Census.
2. Writing up the needs discussed in a draft	2. Use these to finalise drafts.
3. Writing up draft of the Classification and Standard to be used for official statistics.	3. Final version of the Classification and Standard.
4. Writing up draft recommendations and a plan to put them into action.	4. Final report which includes what the review recommends and the plan to put it into action.
<i>Expect to finish December 2001.</i>	<i>Expect to finish June 2002.</i>

Progress so far

Planning and preparation have been under way since mid-2000. The terms of reference, to which the review will work, were agreed to towards the end of 2000. This was after discussion within Statistics New Zealand and with the Social Statistics Advisory Committee, the Māori Statistics Forum, and other stakeholders. Work has begun on a set of perspectives papers, which will provide background material for discussions with community groups, producers of official statistics on ethnicity, and people and organisations who use the statistics.



Want to read further about the issues surrounding the review?

Background paper <http://www.stats.govt.nz/ethnicity>

There are various documents on the Statistics NZ Māori website, the address is <http://www.stats.govt.nz/maori>

Also the Statistics NZ Pacific Peoples (living in New Zealand) website <http://www.stats.govt.nz/pacific-people>

Statistics NZ Library resources

These can be read within the library or photocopied, but not borrowed.

Ethnicity and gender: population trends and policy challenges in the 1990s. Proceedings of a conference, Wellington, July 1993. Population Association of New Zealand; Ministry of Māori Development, Wellington, 1993.

Ethnicity and the 1991 Census: Vol. 2 The ethnic minority populations of Great Britain. Office of Population Censuses and Surveys, Peach, Ceri, HMSO, London, 1996.

New Zealand standard classification of ethnicity, Department of Statistics, Wellington, 1996.

Books and journals

Hirschman, Charles; Alba, Richard and Reynolds, Farley. (2000) *The Meaning and Measurement of Race in the US Census: Glimpses into the Future.* *Demography* 37, 3,381-393.

MacPherson, Cluny; Spoonley, Paul; Anae, Melani. (2000) *Tangata o te Moana Nui: The Evolving Identities of the Pacific People in Aotearoa New Zealand.* Dunmore Press, Palmerston North.

Spoonley, Paul; Pearson, David & Macpherson, Cluny. (1998) *Nga Patai. Racism and Ethnic Relations in Aotearoa/New Zealand.* Dunmore Press, Palmerston North.

Disclaimer: views expressed in these articles and books are not necessarily those of Statistics New Zealand.



There will be further newsletters available during the year. If you would like to receive future issues by email please send your email address to darren_whiu@stats.govt.nz