

STATISTICAL EVALUATION

The report was commissioned by the Government to obtain the views of Maori and non-Maori New Zealanders on the attitudes towards the Maori language. Also the report was to find out the public's attitude towards the Government's involvement in encouraging the Maori language in New Zealand. The surveys are taken over three years 2000, 2003 and 2006 with each survey a sample of 1500 people was taken. ①

The data was taken by telephone surveys with New Zealand people being asked statements and whether they agreed or disagreed with them. The data is shown on tables in percentages of how many people agreed with the statement. ⑤

The accuracy of the data compared with New Zealand's population's opinion may be incorrect as only 24.3% of Maori and 22.5% of non-Maori responded to the 2006 survey. ③

This could infer that the survey only got the opinions of people interested in the subject being surveyed and misses a large portion of the population. This concludes that the 2006 survey cannot represent the New Zealand population. The sample size is good with 1500 people being surveyed. But we only know how many people did not respond to the 2006 survey so the validity of the 2000 and 2003 surveys may also be questionable. ⑥

There is no mention of how the people were selected for the surveys and if in fact it was a random survey. More information is needed to know how reliable the survey data is. ④

The summary from the data from table one of Maori respondents states there is a steady increase between the 2000 and 2006 surveys. This statement is very generalised as with one of the questions "well-spoken Maori is a beautiful thing to listen to" there was in fact a decrease from 97 to 95. That happened between the 2003 and 2006 surveys with "Maori should be a compulsory school subject for Maori children" there was a decrease from 66 to 61 this could suggest a start of a trend in the percent of Maoris who agree with the statement. In the conclusion of the report it states they are making good progress in having the Maori language valued by all New Zealanders. This statement is very questionable as these surveys do not represent the population of New Zealand as it has flaws on size of survey with only small amounts of response rate and the validity of how random the survey was. ②

In conclusion this report seems very generalised with some comments not taking into account all of the parts of the data. The report would not be very helpful to the Government as it does not represent New Zealand's population. But from the surveys there has been a large increase from 2000 and 2006 surveys on most things. So this information could be useful to the Government. ⑦