Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

Introduction

Thank you to everyone who participated in the unconference.

Information from the unconference has been reproduced using our best endeavours. So please excuse any errors or information that may have landed in the wrong place.

Not all information included a Pod number.

Some continuation pages weren't marked as such.

Not all Pod sessions produced outputs.

Some Pod sessions produced headings only.

Some information may have been omitted due to inability to read writing.

Contact us

Please email us about any content that needs to be adjusted – datalead@stats.govt.nz.

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Pod schedule

Time	1	2	3	4	5	6 – Indicators Aotearoa NZ	7	8
9-10am		Is data portability in NZ a feasible solution?		Deciding what to measure. Māori-centred measures.	How can we tell if market mechanisms are delivering wellbeing? **No content**	Introducing IANZ	How much data is too much to collect?	Making a difference with data. Building data capability.
10-11am	What can we influence? What can we control? What if we do neither?		Regulating AI. How do you make algorithms transparent? Algorithms and bias	What does co-design look like for data sovereignty? Co-design is? How do we do it? How do we bring all of society into this conversation? It's good Stats co-designs with iwi … what about the rest of us?	How transparent is transparent enough? *John* How to do community engagement/social licence. **No content**	What does wellbeing mean in a 'social' context? How would we measure it?	Consent. Use of census data in the IDI – consent. What level of consent is needed when putting survey data in the IDI?	Good practice (in data management). How do we apply what we've learned in our work (ethics / transparency). What would a good governance framework look like?
11am-12pm	What is intrinsic dignity?	The limits of individual vs collective data rights.		How do we make sure all stakeholders get value from data collection?	How to ensure broad data science skills across govt **No content**	What does wellbeing mean in an **environmental** context and how would we measure it? Link between Stats NZ indicators and Living Stds F'work indicators.	UBI – good or bad idea? Future of work.	Easier access to data. Is a data commons possible?
1-2pm	GDPR – Roadmap or road block?			Ethical matrix		What does wellbeing mean in an **economic** context?	What will 'singularity' mean?	
2-3pm		Forbes reports 90% of execs say AI is important to the future of the company. Only 25% have adopted AI. Why?				What does wellbeing mean in a **cultural** context?		How do you build in privacy and ethics when developing new things?

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Time	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9-10am	How much should NZers know about the IDI?	Centralised data store in govt? Ethics of IDI. What "success" or "ethics" looks like in Te Ao Māori. Social licence in the IDI.			Data stewardship / responsibility between levels of govt.	Public service algorithms. What are we doing now? Archiving algorithms – will this tell a story? Ethical algorithms vs ethical outcomes	How do we get everyone involved in thinking about the ethics of data? Data privacy and ethics. Governance and evaluation. Governance of algorithms. Whose ethics? What if ethics differ? Who / how regulates? Who gets to decide? Who decides? Ethics board in practice sustainable? Leader's role? What skills are needed to set moral trajectory of AI and data use?
10-11am	Should important algorithms require a "human" in the decision process?	Should all agencies open source their code? Public (funded) discussion needed about Stats seeking consent for adding data to the IDI. Open data.	Is the Māori data sovereignty principle applied to other groups? Don't other minority groups (or all groups) deserve sovereignty over their own data?	Data disaggregation. **No content**	Data poverty.	Data sovereignty in the context of the cloud. Cloud and data sovereignty.	
11am-12pm	Whose ethics? Regulating algorithms. Basic guidance for predictive analytics with admin datasets. *Sarah B* How do we define ethics? Who decides what a good algorithm looks like? How do we maximise value for the people affected?	Finding victims of algorithms.	Data →Info →KNG Or KNG →Data →Info How to promote data awareness	'Fake' data. Is R/Python promoting transparency of AI? **No content**	How to build AI ethics capability. *Caleb*	Who's scared (cautious / sceptical) or data?	**10-11am** Building capacity and capability. What makes for good/bad privacy practices and why? Building data capability.
1-2pm	Linked data. Data automation and Pacific.				How would we know what good information governance / data / algorithms – looks like?	Who do you go to co-design Māori stats / financial data. 1975 Stats leg and Māori interests?	Is using post codes in NZ akin to racial profiling? • Algorithm and ethics • Future of data Algorithms/data and democracy.
2-3pm				URLs – stop breaking them. **No content**	Is data increasing inequity? Who decides accountability? Which way is the power flowing?	Collective data rights.	

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How do we get everyone involved in thinking about ethics? –

Pod 1

Ethics is HARD

Stones are good …

Identifying champions

Ethical questions

Context is important

Communities of practice

Asilomar

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Pod 1

- GDPR is very specific.
- GDPR is difficult to understand.
- GDPR is very prescriptive.

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What is intrinsic dignity?

Pod 1 (11am)

- It exists.
- Don't impinge on an individual's intrinsic dignity? Unless there is a (good reason, collective good), to do so
    - This is related to context and collective need.
- It exists and is recognised, despite it being difficult to define objectively.
- It becomes manifest where we respect individual and community rights
    - And we recognise individual and collective responsibilities.

Who is recognised as having a voice, as being counted?

Who does the counting?

What is counted – structures of how we count people impacts this, e.g. former GDP lens.

Recognise voice/contribution of individual community. Not just GDP lens.

* Can personas help/are they cost-effective?

For example, DOB → sensitivity is related to context and collective need.

Problems with deficit/bias/mirror flaws in information collection and reporting.

* How we would get there would be based on Crown/Māori relationship, voice of all society, including those who are usually not heard, e.g. future generations.

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Why isn't government adopting AI faster, given its importance?

Pod 2

- Capacity (human and capital resource).
- Social licence.
- Ethics.
- Types of problems we want to solve.
- Imagination – think about situations that don't have as many ethical consierations.
- Is government the place for leading?
- Difficult to act in the public sector.
- Maintaining trust.
- Learning from biased historical data.
- Ability to audit.
- Legislation.
- Creepy factor.
- Important to get it right.
- Unintended consequences.
- Fast follower.

If it works, fully automated luxury communism.

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Limits of individual and collective data rights (extent)

Pod 2

Collective rights in data **are** a thing.

There are times when collective good outweighs individual rights over data (but we're not agreed that the setting is perfect), e.g. Privacy Act.

Individual rights/goods can conflict with collective rights/goods, can conflict with "the public/greater good" and other rights (e.g. contract).

We as individuals don't have a good understanding of the impact of disclosing our data for ourselves into the future – let alone for others.

Exploring sub-populations' concepts of ethics (generally) can inform better ways of doing things that we can all agree on.

There should be a presumption that those whose data is being used should be given the opportunity to know what their data is used for, and the results.

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Regulating AI

Pod 3

Transparency is a good idea and probably a base, but **not enough** because:

- Very hard to explain
- Most people probably won't engage.

So, need some form of:

Regulator or process to audit/assess use and provide assurance of ethical use:

Public **and** private, e.g. loans in US banks.

Which helps support …

Social pressure for ethical use.

Is it possible to be transparent with AI?

- Quite hard to do!
- What is explanation for:
  - Understand impact?
  - Apportion blame?
- Reveal trade-offs in the use of AI
- Broadly toothless?
- Hard for people to understand.

Example: Health ethics governance body (peer reviewed) has oversight of, e.g. National Data Ombudsman 'Tuning Tick' – benefit v harm.

Using data for decision making

→ Much broader than AI

Hard to even define AI.

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Regulating AI

(Pod 3 continued)

Risk **and** opportunity because of value.

Focus on benefit to **person** (but not always one person), whose data it is.

Who decides?

Social licence = if everyone could vote, what would we say?

But are people informed enough? For example, views on cloud.

Open data paper – show how used.

Removing humans when using AI
Don't have to?

Is human in loop really feasible?
Depends on context.

Human bias too!
Bias also in data.

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Pod 3

John and I believe …

VW Golf:

Define "victim"

- Individual ↑
- Group/community

Individual

- Lower cost? ↑
- Correct fuel economy ↑ WIN
- High emissions ↓

Community

- Higher emissions ↓
    - Are they higher than other makes?
    - Or just as advertised?

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Pod 4

- Māori should not be charged cost recovery for data request by Stats NZ.
- There should be a strategy for capacity building of Māori to understand data and have data expertise.
- The Te Kupenga survey needs to evolve to be more helpful to Māori communities.
- There should be a Māori governance group for data that sits at the same level as mainstream governance.
- Data should be collected to show Māori values, progress, opportunities, issues.

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Ethical matrix

Pod 4

	Profit	Fairness	FP	FN	Data quality*

- Company
- Customers
- Ethnic group 1
- Ethnic group 2

Questions to ask

- Does it meet the threshold? W? M? O?
- Who are your stakeholders? Sponsors?
- What groups do you need to consider in your analysis? Look at Human Rights Act
- Whose values should be reflected in the matrix?
- What does success and failure look like for each?
    - Who is it important for?
- Measure false negatives, false positives, data quality
- Include the 'do nothing' option?
- Who has the final say?
- How can we make the results available?

* Cathy O'Neil's ethical matrix

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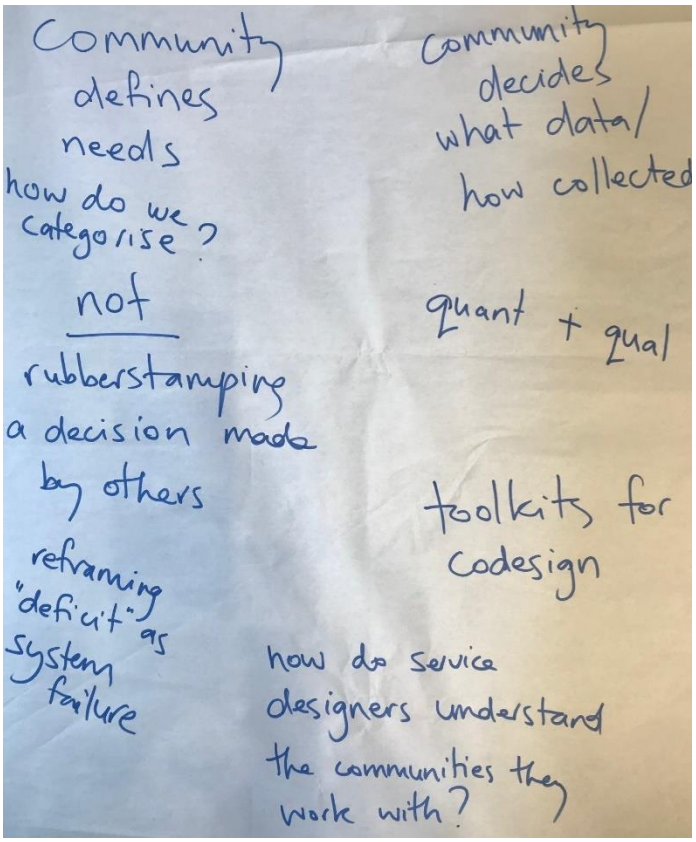
How do we ensure all stakeholders get value from data collection?

Pod 4

- Incentives.
- Evidence of previous good use.
- Share the data capability.
- Negative catalysts to reduce/stop collection.
- Transparency is hard.
- Stress inhibits decision making – therefore consent not free and informed.
- Proximity to the use of the data makes a difference.
- Allow end contributors to have some 'ownership' of the process.

Moving beyond a deficit model



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How do we ensure all stakeholders get value from data collection?

(Pod 4 continued)

- Set up accountabilities at onset
- Workshop and consult on collection before the collection
- Lots of use comes from secondary use of the data
- What about community data?
    - Is a decentralised model more appropriate?
- Trade-off between privacy/reducing data collection and sharing, and having to tell my story again, and again, or a service being broken when switching locations/providers
- If you involve the stakeholders in the design of data collections you may get better questions and higher data quality
    - But takes longer ($$).

How do you be transparent without 'notification fatigue'?

- Practical and theoretical limits on providing value to stakeholders
- People may not want lengthy explanations
- What about real time, e.g. security camera
    - And other down-stream or future uses?
- Collective community 'value'
    - Moral/ethical viewpoint.

As a pod, we think it's complex, maybe impossible to ensure value for all participants:

- Can aim for least harm
- Can involve subjects of collection in design
- Can view for 'collective good' or co-design this (where possible).

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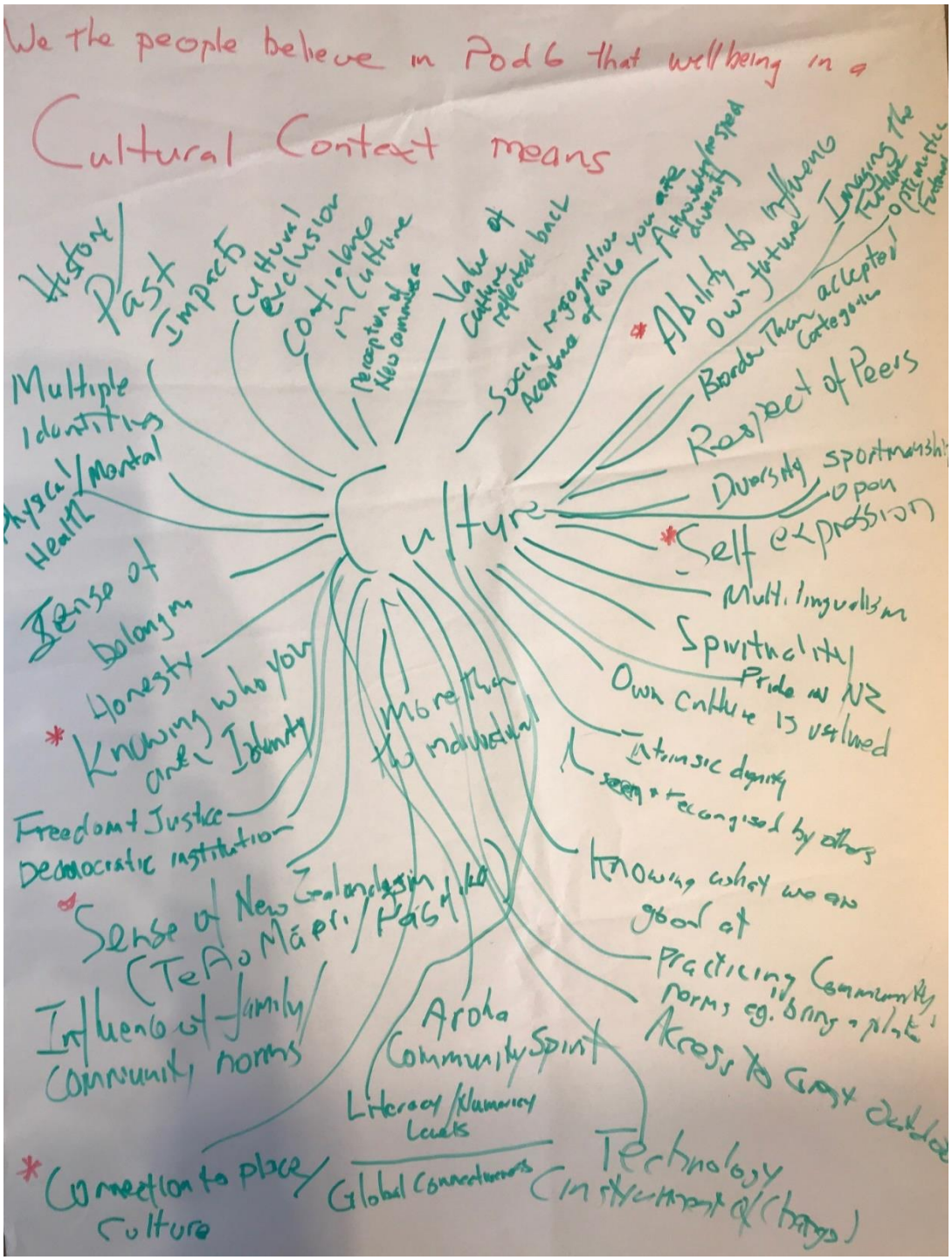
Wellbeing in a cultural context means …

Pod 6



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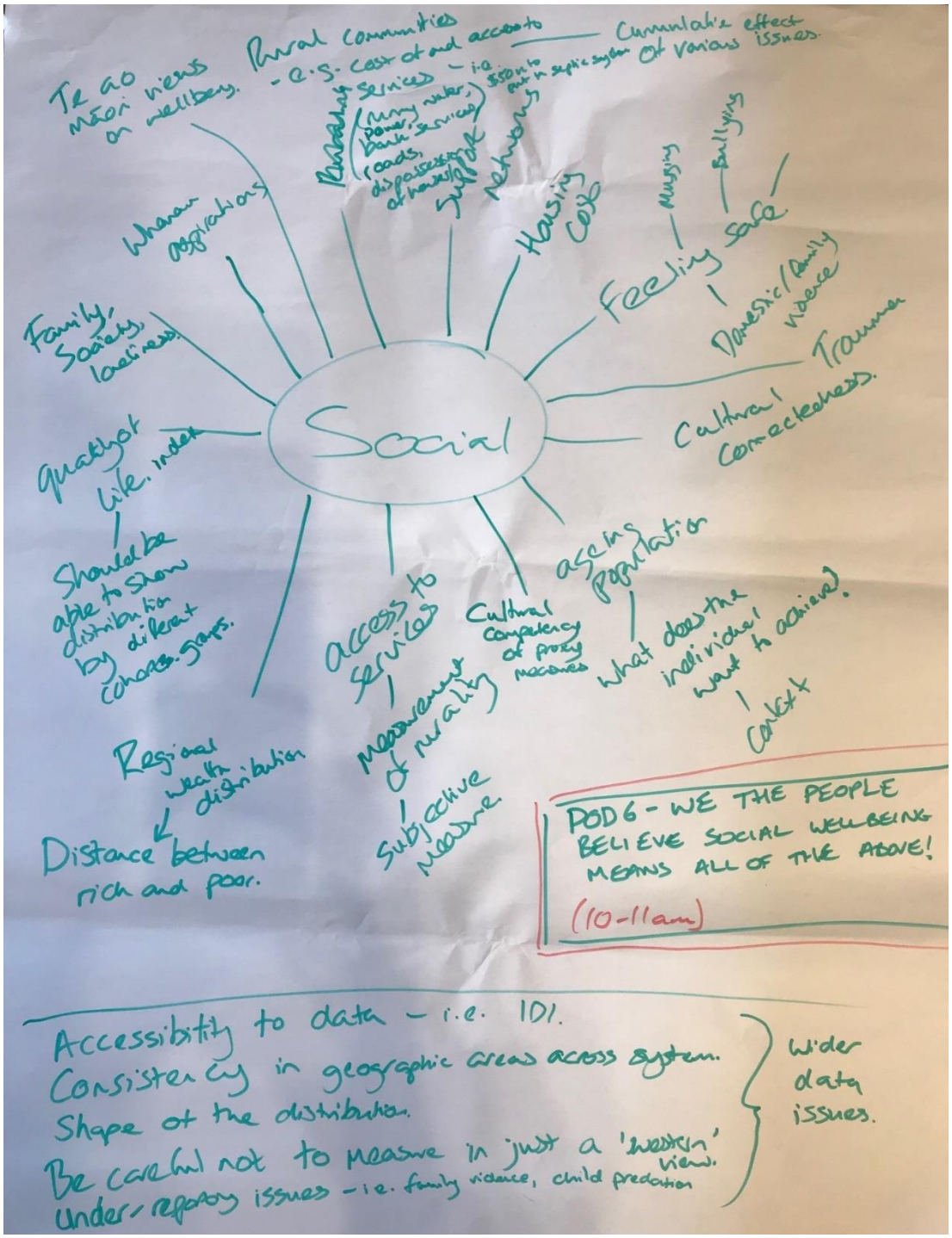
Social wellbeing means all of the things below …

Pod 6



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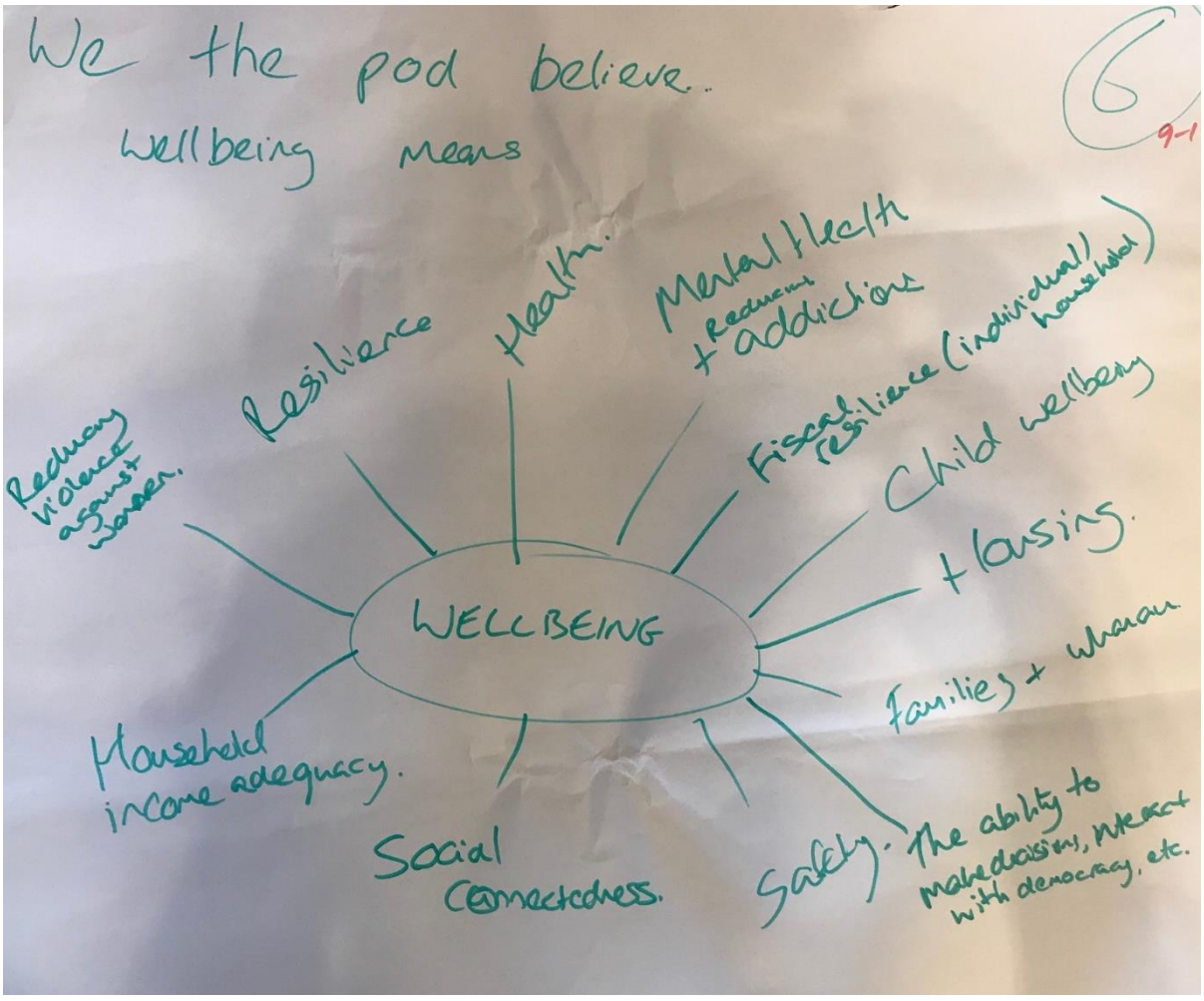
Wellbeing means …

Pod 6



Questions:

- LSF – how does it fit?
- Outcome or target-based?
- Who decides final indicators?
- Community or individual measures?

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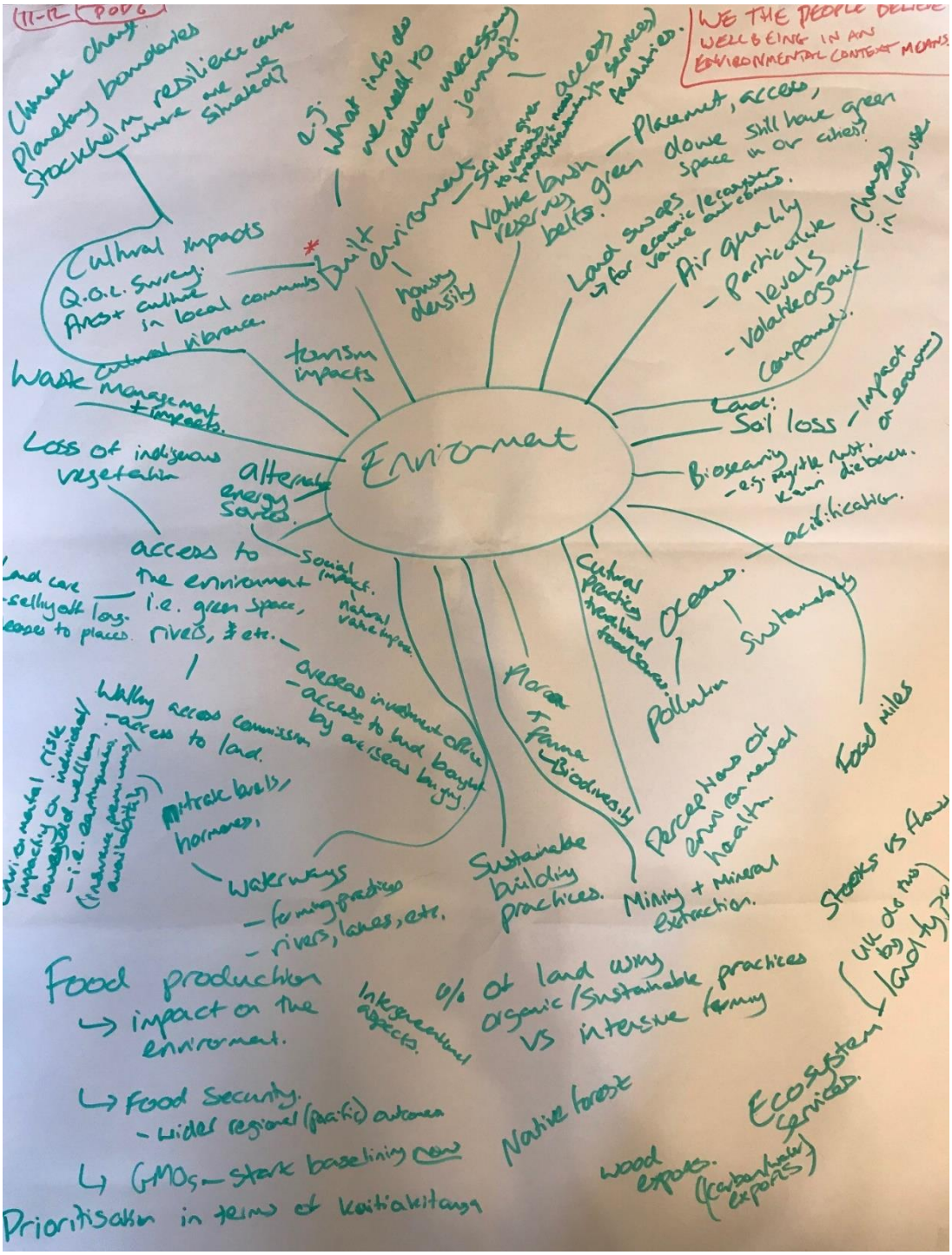
Wellbeing in an ENVIRONMENTAL context means …

Pod 6



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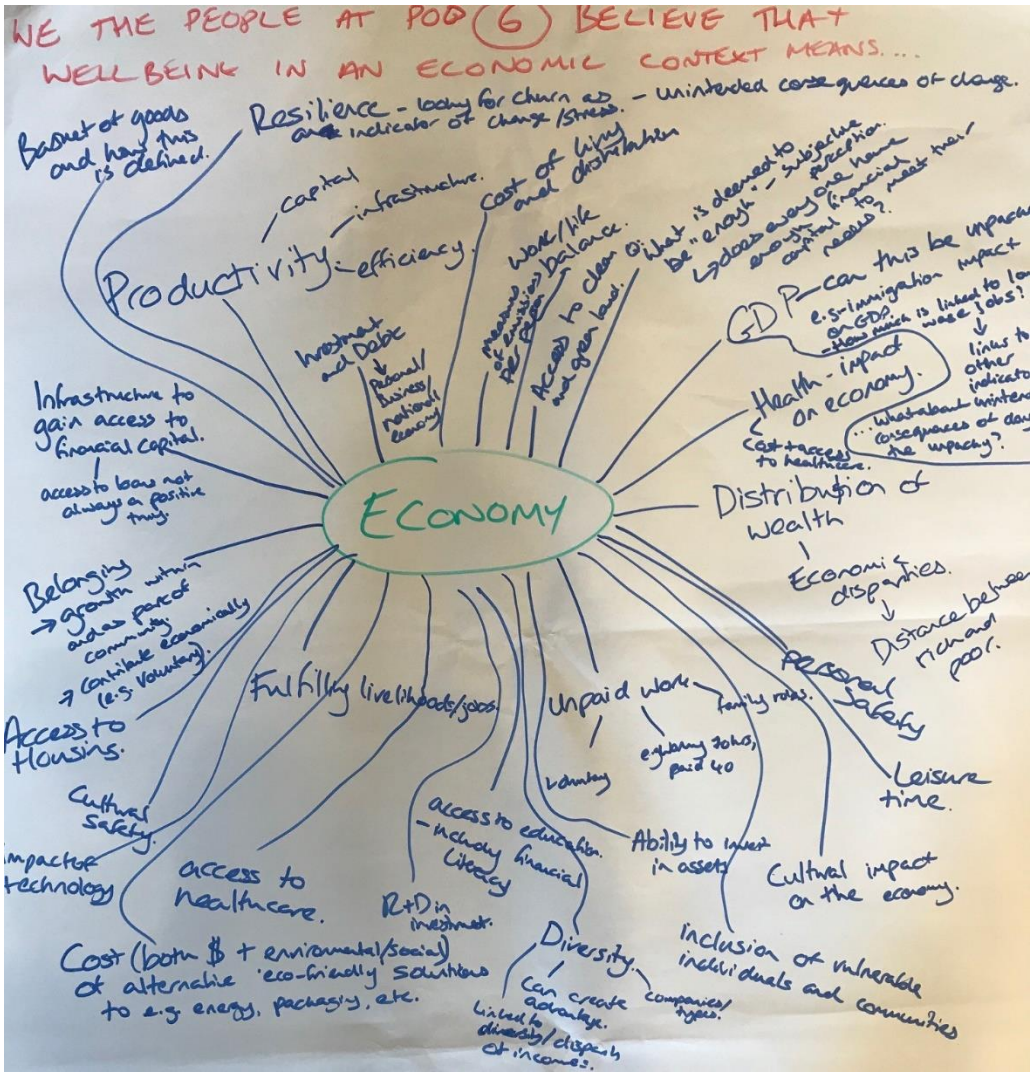
Wellbeing in an ECONOMIC context means …

Pod 6



How do we identify the perverse incentives – and mitigate/avoid?

How do we measure the impact of changes of state, e.g. churn, movement, transitions?

Impact of economic growth on other aspects of wellbeing.

Q : Will the measures change as perceptions of wellbeing change? Yes – no decision on frequency yet.

Subjective and objective measures.

Is "capital" the right term when talking about natural assets?

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UBI (Universal Base Indicators) – good or bad?

Pod 7

- Recognises different types of work, i.e. voluntary, caring for family.
- With automation, could give people options for flexible work.
- Is there an evidence base?
- Should universal pension in NZ extend to other groups in society?
- How would it be funded?
    - Fundamental shift in tax system?
    - Universal basic **dividend**, i.e. funded by big multinational companies or extraction of natural resources, e.g. Alaska = everyone receives an oil dividend.

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How much data is too much to collect?

Pod 7

- Needs more national discussion.
- Need public buy-in.
- Consent and privacy questions.
- What will it be used for?
- What is ethical?
- Who is getting the value?
- How much is too little?
    - Risk??
- Need to explain WHY we need it.
- Ethics of data → early education.
- Issues of trust.

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Pod 7

We are moving to a post-privacy society – needs more safeguards and data 'rights' for citizens.

(How much data is too much to collect?)

Pod 7

Stats needs to:

- Take ownership of plain English informed consent and information c. the IDI
    - Form: exact wording 12yrs+ (age).
- Have the conversation with New Zealand public about consent to build and maintain the IDI – didn't happen under previous government. Now government has the experience of use of IDI it should provide evidence to inform this conversation.

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Humans have a role in the applications of algorithms

Singularity

Pod 7

- Could we? Yes.
- Should we? 50/50.
- Rules – impossible.
- Possibilities/threats – ENDLESS.
- Life after - ?

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Privacy/ethics when designing new things

Pod 8

Ethics by design IS a good idea.

Who should do it? Co-design?

It's less mature than privacy and security by design.

There are tools that we're not using.

Privacy by design is a subset and might be a good place to look for best practice and research ethics.

A framework would be useful:

- Don't reinvent the wheel.
- Look to Health & Social Research approaches.

Ethics matrices might be a useful tool/approach.

Ideally, we should retrospectively apply this.

This applies to collection, storage, manipulation, curation, quality, disposal, process, governance …

Consider what could go wrong.

BUT do we have the capacity?

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How do we make a difference with data?

Pod 8

1. What question is trying to be answered?
2. Influencer buy-in.
3. How do we measure all effects?
4. Data is a public good?
5. Analysis is a public good?
6. Challenge beliefs.
7. Context matters.

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What is good practice?

Pod 8

Should there be some oversight of 'good practice'?

How do we know what good practice is? What is it? Link to …

- Do we need a high-level ethics board?

Who defines good practice?

- Involve stakeholders.
- Not a point in time … tick off.
- How do people disagree? – About me and/or my community.
- Who does this affect?
- How do you make it more transparent?
- What is the problem statement hypothesis? Test actual results against this.
- How do you spread good practice?
- Independent review of algorithm.
- Check historical data for bias.
- How do we make trade-offs?
- High level (and next level) principles.
- Asking early questions.
- What oversight?
- Peer – co-design/review (throughout, not at the end).

Need to raise awareness of ethics – make process more accessible.

Guidance is needed – balancing quality and use with dignity, self-determination of the people it represents.

PHRaE (MSD) – includes Māori perspective:

- Is it the right thing to do?
- Should we be doing it?
- Is it consistent with our purpose?

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Is data commons possible?

Pod 8

- Works on small-medium scale, e.g. predator-free NZ, Te tihi.
- Needs to be identifiable to work best.
- Trust issues at scale.
- Where to draw trade-off between liberty and data integrity.
- Trust is fragile.

Ownership

Control

Access

Possession

datacommons.org.nz.

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Governance | Decision making system

[Pod not indicated] Could relate to 8, 9, 13 or 15

"Wild west" (problem statement).

How do you ensure it happens?

Can't rely on self-regulation.

Not isolated – impacts.

Inappropriate use of data.

Different motivators.

Governance brings a range of views, seeking agreement, consistency, representation.

How can you be effective and efficient?

Agree on principles.

Ethics requires discussion and balancing.

Best practice guidance.

Hold space for difficult discussions (getting stuck).

- Difference between public and private – sharing data – purpose and trust.
- What is government's role for data outside the public sector?
- Research, operational, individual, business?
- What is the gap – current framework not robust or monitoring?
- "Forgetting" unneeded information, e.g. requirements, purpose – varies … **GDPR??**

Whose information is it?

Assuming.

Monitoring.

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Governance | Decision making system

[Pod not indicated] Could relate to 8, 9, 13 or 15 (continued)

Outside – private usage

- Different use/requirements
- Data crossing borders – not just NZ public sector
- Auditing.

GDPR – should you collect information if you don't need it?

Privacy Act principle without teeth.

Where is onus of control/onus to prove?

Māori – lack of perspective – words we use.

Individual, right now v long-term.

Ethics

- Why? →
- What? → Governance → Other things will fall out
- How? →

Digital.govt.nz

- Standards need to be added to the toolkit.
- Build knowledge, responsibilities.

Stats and SIA are working on this – social sector.

Stats → leading framework development.

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Pod 9

Three roles that should be independent from each other:

1. Intervene in correct process (change decisions if they have new data).
   But there are risks associated with this – would need to be transparent.
2. Control role – ensuring algorithm is working the same as he human decision making process (same outcome).
3. Quality and retraining (and monitoring known risks).

Linked data

Pod 9

Public ok to share and link

Doi's	Tim Berners-Lee
(soon via National Library)	W3C
Orchid National business number	Linked data principles

Stats data strategy should address best practices re URI's, and capability building and leadership

Private – tread carefully

IRD number	Hansard as XML
National Health Index	
National student number	
Driver's licence	

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Whose ethics?

Pod 9

There needs to be an ethical framework – at the national level – that everyone shares at the highest level*.

Existing frameworks: • NEHC • Principles on data [ethics] [analysis] • Universities have ethics committees
Existing law

But able to ask ethical questions at different levels.

Ethical frameworks help us decide when we must weigh up conflicting interests:

- How to identify harms/risks and benefits.
- How to weigh them up.
- How to minimise harm and mitigate risks.
- Transparency – risks and benefits.

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Human eyes on algorithms

Pod 9

- Would need to be able to change results.
- Would need to be able to understand algorithm.
- Who decides on false + and -?
- Delegating activity to an algorithm? MSD example.
- Bad use of algorithms? Are they too simplistic?
    - Mortgage example
    - Limited data.
- What would a human do?
    - Change algorithm
    - Initiate another check?
- Can't exercise discretion
    - But can filter out some human biases.
- People can game algorithms.
- Someone to watch over algorithms – e.g. when it keeps doing what it's trained to do
    - Understand feedback loops are treating symptoms not causes?
- Design so no one gets an adverse decision (they go to a human).
- Three types of eyes (separate) … accountability:
    - Intervene in current process
    - Control – separate process ($ involved – or another algorithm?)
    - Quality/algorithm training – risks to monitor.

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Government should open source their code data

Pod 10

If it improves social and economic wellbeing of its citizens

Saves time and rework.

Provides consistency.

Public good.

Ability to 'game' the system.

Independent ethics 'health check'.

Finding victims of algorithms

Pod 10

Who/what is a victim?

Systematic bias?

Legal?

Disadvantaged groups' rights to explanation, redress, feedback … downward spirals.

We, the pod, believe:

1. General awareness raising – education and support, advice. Raise capability of support services.
2. We should build in notification, wherever possible.
3. We should provide an explanation, wherever possible.
4. Right of appeal, redress.
5. Independent ethics review.
6. Transparency of purpose and efficacy.
7. Algorithms to check algorithms? Checks.

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Should government open source code?

Pod 10

Depends …

YES, if no harm.

NO, if people can game the system.

Should government open source data?

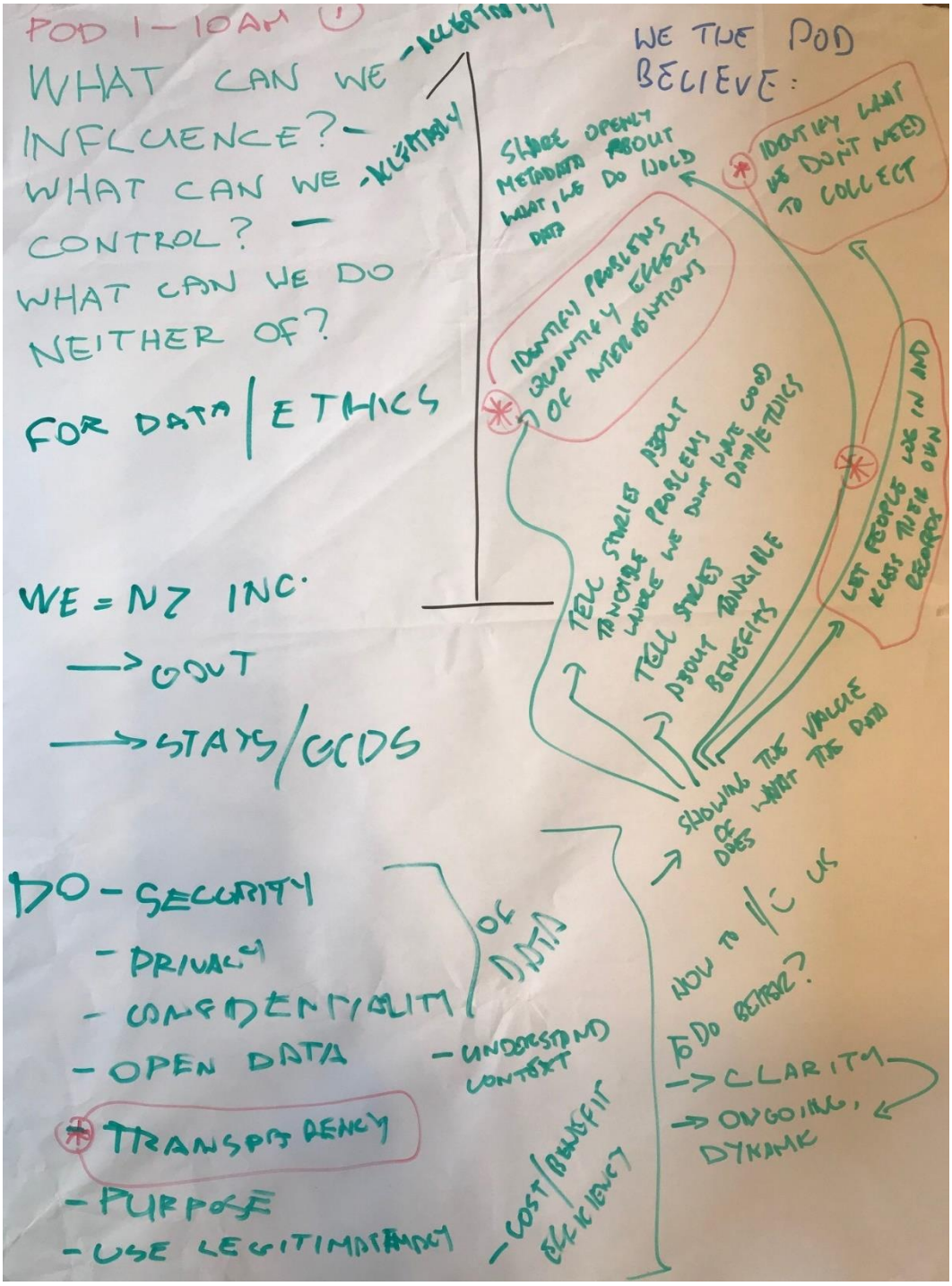
NO, for individual data.

MAYBE, for aggregated data.

Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

What can we influence? What can we control? What can we do neither of?

Pod 11 (10am)



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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

What can we influence? What can we control? What can we do neither of?

(Pod 11 continued)

Personal data sovereignty = access and control (but not all data)

- Trends towards more open, transparent data/ethics happening in market
- **Sign up charter** may be sufficient (i.e. inclusive approach)
- Plug lack of confidence in legislation
- NZ Inc could control/influence overseas organisational pernicious use, but there are consequences.

Data is like water – who owns it?

Do I own my own data – NZ Inc needs to clarify this – potentially to level of GDPC-like transparency.

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

What is good data governance?

Pod 13

Transparency.

Fit for purpose.

Multi-level – strategic/exec (connect the layers), operational.

Broader representation.

Consideration of purpose, e.g. operational v research.

How do you know if it's effective?

More v less.

By organisational type.

Not have vested interest in outcome – need objective view

- Enough understanding for decision.

Develop:

- Foundational principles
- Limits of authority, **accountability**, and duty of care.

Honouring relationships.

Good representation.

Simple, clear structure to link everything.

Encountering resistance, allowing demonstration.

Put it everywhere.

Stories – **why** are we doing this?

The right structure can free you up to achieve, e.g. internet fair use policy.

Principles work well if common understanding.

ISO governance standard – don't reinvent.

Add cultural dimension.

If working well – impacts everything.

Board (management/tactical) – set strategic trajectory/scope.

Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

What is good data governance?

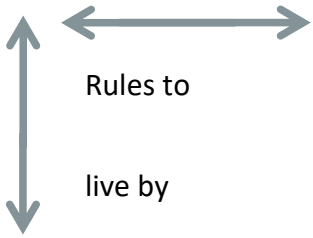
(Pod 13 continued)

Distinguish between **principles** and **strategic objectives** – operationalisation

Access

? Outcomes

Strategic objectives



Rules to

live by

Info ecosystem/hierachy
national

Chief Data Steward – Statistics
↓ organisation (Justice)

Everyone is a steward data management Public/private

Governance is … MoJ

- Structures
- Leadership
- Management principles
- Accountable for outcomes/audit
- Documentation.

New Zealand ecosystem

- Moving data around
- Privacy commissioner
- Stats is thinking about this
- Enterprise Data Governance (Stats NZ).

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

What is good data governance?

(Pod 13 continued)

Local government

- Smaller
- Hold particular sensitive data
- Varying capabilities
- Inconsistent practice.

The bus! – What happens if information is ignored?

Cost.

Context, communication, transparency, consent.

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

How can we build AI ethics capability?

Pod 13

- Use tikanga.
- Sharing information – create 'lightbulb' moments.
- Be transparent about outcomes.
- Develop transparent models!
- Everybody has to care.
- Build a framework.
- We have to share.
- We should build capability across organisations.
- Engage with a wider community of users.
- Create (and operate under) overarching AI ethics principles.

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

New Zealand needs a stocktake of data and capability between levels of government

Pod 13

[No content]

Data inequality/poverty

Pod 13

Data poverty	
Groups not in data	Capability to use data
	Fit for purpose data (retrofit Te Kupenga for example) (information needs not being met)
Access to results	Unions for data subjects?
Have purpose for data	Inequality =/ Values

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

In which direction does power flow?

Does data exacerbate inequality?

Pod 13

Regulation of private industry to mitigate harmful outcomes.

- Trial algorithmic audit in public sector … then expand to private sector?
- The holders of data have the power:
    - Give communities data and the ability to make decisions with it
    - "With great power comes great responsibility".

The risks of "new" data:
• Who is empowered?
• Who is at risk?

- Open sourcing:
    - To some extent
    - Ability to have external audit.
- Replicability of research:
    - Do we apply the same standards with data?
    - What does peer review of data/algorithms look like?

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

We need to archive the process of government decision making when algorithms are involved … we're just not sure how and it isn't easy!

Pod 14 (session 1)

[No content]

Co-design statistics with Māori

Pod 14 (1-2pm)

- Right from the beginning and right through the process
- Frameworks currently exist : Ngati Porou

  [12 years looking at wellbeing – putting values on "success" – building up a database: Stats NZ]
- "Accountability of settlements"
- Fit for purpose
- Who are the stakeholders? What is the story to be told? Positive contribution
- **Start** the conversation [Stats NZ]
  - Many groups may be starting conversations, so join up?
- How do we give value back?
- Definitions of wealth may be quite different to a financial sector data
- On-going support for financial decisions, i.e Ngati Porou support into housing of solo mums (300 families).

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

Collective data rights | It's all about power

Pod 14

Who?

- Iwi
- Hapu
- Whanau
- A community
- A town
- A club
- An organisation
- A location
- A trust
- A board
- An association
- A trade union
- A profession
- A business
- A gang
- A school
- Universities
- A church
- A company

Some have special legal status, some don't

Why?

- Issues affect groups as well as individuals
- Sometimes collective interests trump individual interests
- Without rights, won't get anything
- Allow for different world views
- Strength in numbers

What?

Transparency over use
Right to be forgotten
To complain

Balance with the public interest

To consent as a collective
Access and correction
Use
Disposal
Sharing

How?

Privacy Act for collectives?

Maintaining dignity

Whare Hauora

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

Data sovereignty in the context of the cloud

Pod 14

We believe organisations need to be very explicit about the decisions:

- Balancing concerns
- Risks/trust issues
- Specifying benefits in ways consumers can understand, e.g. lives saved
- Tangata whenua concerns.

We need to understand the data and its context first.

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Unconference write up | "We, the pod, believe …"

Pod 15

That leaders do have an influential role in setting the moral trajectory of data use and AI.

We see that leaders (organisational and political) do not always have good understanding of the moral issues or may lack moral skill/moral will to act in 'good' ways.

What would be good (we could do) is to educate leaders in how tech/data influences ethics – have them sign a charter (as in the UK) so they acknowledge the impact/influence their decisions have.

Leaders control resources → perhaps allocation more towards these discussions.

What's the leader's role?	To set the moral trajectory embedded in data use and AI
Important skills?	
Leader's capability?	