



Population futures in an uncertain world
The changing faces of Aotearoa New Zealand

Critical Issues for Population in Aotearoa

Population data and statistics

Len Cook

Statistician, Government Statistician of NZ 1992-2000

Ian Pool – Master Statistician

Quetelet – the task of the statistician is to study humanity, and report when things are not as they should be

Professor Emeritus Ian Pool CNZM FRSNZ - A legacy

- **Demography as social science embracing place, generation, community and its distinct cultures that is special to New Zealand**
- **Demographic statistics as system based on conceptual framework**
- **Methodological innovation (cohort analysis, Māori)**
- **Analysis/ policy connection (The NZ Family from 1840)**
- **Statistical source innovation (fertility survey)**
- **International dependence and connection (Pacific, Africa)**

Active investor in people, methods and statistical measures

Mentor, advocate

Public intellectual

What might Ian Pool regard as critical issues in 2023

In a time of forced change will the statistical integrity of system of population statistics be protected, including long term continuity?

In what way will there be advance assessment of the impact of major change on the current and new uses of population statistics?

Will New Zealand be ready for the emergence of new demands on the system of population statistics. (Environment protection, Climate change, Housing, Migration, Ageing)?

Will public commitment to the system of population statistics and its constitutional integrity be protected?

Are the distinct interests and needs of Māori known and protected?

Of the many alternative sources for the system of population statistics, which ones are useful? (e.g. limit enumeration content, lengthen gap between census enumeration)

Given the poor results of the census enumeration in both 2018 and 2023, how will users be assured that further change will be effectively managed.

Where might Ian Pool have made a mark, today?

- *By challenging the weak understanding of demography and population dynamics across the policy advice communities in New Zealand.*
- *By challenging the commitment of universities and the public sector to supporting quantitative social sciences.*
- *By encouraging a strong user community to continually challenge official statisticians, in order to have independent assurance that methods and practices meet needs.*
- *By making known the information loss and coverage limitations when data sources of the future are not designed to produce statistical measures of known relevance and quality through scientifically designed processes.*
 - *(Will we really no longer need statistical surveys?)*
 - *(Will the public sector no longer invest in new sources?)*
- *By seeking confidence that a dwelling and area statistical frame derived from the de facto population register of StatsNZ, will enable greater data integration for places of new sources of varying granularity and frequency about habitat, ecosystems and climate.*
- *Require the impact of system changes on long standing series to be highlighted in advance.*