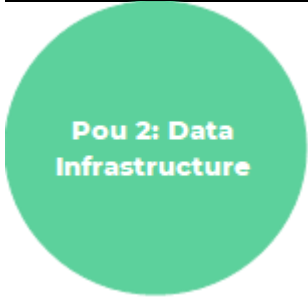The model presents eight Māori data governance pou (pillars), which represent the key priorities of action to establish Māori data governance. These pou are:

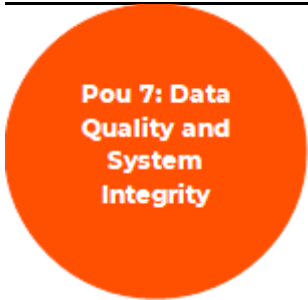| Pou	Description
Pou 1: Data Capacities and Workforce Development	Focuses on enhancing Māori data skills both within the organisation and among communities. Māori data capability involves acquiring the expertise to gather, store, retrieve, and utilise data effectively. Further, these skills should be grounded in Māori values and cultural practices (tikanga). Building capability also encompasses understanding and practicing ethical data usage in a culturally sensitive manner, taking into account aspects such as cultural tax and cultural safety.
Pou 2: Data Infrastructure	Addresses decisions related to infrastructure, which encompasses hardware, software, networking, services, policies, and other related components. Māori data governance focuses on aspects of data infrastructure designed to benefit Māori, distributed and decentralised infrastructure, and places a strong emphasis on sustainable and forward-looking infrastructure.
Pou 3: Data Collection	Relates to a Te Tiriti based approach to the collection of data. Here there is a strong focus on Māori aspirations determining what data is collected, the reasons for collecting the data, how Māori will benefit and focusing on free prior and informed consent. Data that is not required should be repatriated.
Pou 4: Data Protection	Relates to protecting data through privacy, security, and jurisdiction. Consequently, this pou may come across as good data protection in general as it relates to Māori data. However, the pou also mentions elements that are not typical of mainstream data protection such as the concept of collective privacy.

Pou 5: Data Sharing, Access and Repatriation

Relates to the ability of Māori to access data, receive data and have data returned when it is no longer needed. Data that is accessible is one of the key data principles from the iwi data needs paper.[4]

Pou 6: Data Use and Reuse

Relates to how data is used and reused and covers elements of consent, asking the right research questions, and algorithms.

Pou 7: Data Quality and System Integrity

Relates to the setting of standards, monitoring of quality and accountability to Māori.

Pou 8: Data Classification

Relates to being able to define Māori data and having appropriate metadata.

The Model has been a valuable framework to evaluate how specific priorities for Māori data governance have already been actioned in the API v3 standards, or where there are opportunities to begin implementing it.