

SYSTEMS THAT WORK ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX

IF GOVERNMENT CAN'T IDENTIFY HARM,
IT CAN'T PREVENT IT.

10 Point Reform Accountability Index

The Australian Autism Alliance calls on Governments to apply the following Accountability Test to every major reform measure.



CUMULATIVE IMPACT LENS & ACCOUNTABILITY LENS

People experience the consequences of reforms cumulatively — not one policy change at a time.

Government accountability should therefore assess:

- Combined impacts
- Interactions between systems
- Unintended consequences
- Cumulative outcomes for people, families and communities

The cumulative impact of reform must be monitored because people experience system changes collectively, not in isolation.

Accountability must extend beyond individual reforms to include how multiple reforms interact and affect the same person, family or community over time.

1	OWNERSHIP TEST Who owns the outcome?	Responsible agency identified Accountable decision-maker identified Escalation pathway identified No "wrong door" accountability	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If I don't know who owns the outcome, the reform is not accountable.
2	WARM TRANSITION TEST Will Government complete the handover?	Warm referral required Receiving system accepts responsibility Support confirmed available Transition actively managed	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Participants should not be expected to navigate system failures alone.
3	NO HARM MONITORING TEST How will Government know if people are being harmed?	Unmet need Safeguarding incidents Hospital presentations Homelessness Family breakdown	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If harm cannot be identified, it cannot be prevented.
4	EARLY WARNING TEST Will risks be identified before crisis occurs?	Waiting lists monitored Referral refusals monitored Workforce shortages monitored Service gaps monitored Access delays monitored	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Early warning indicators prevent predictable failure.
5	REAL-TIME RESOLUTION TEST Can problems be fixed quickly?	Local resolution pathway Joint State/Commonwealth escalation Advocacy access available Timely review pathway	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	People should not wait years while systems argue.
6	REVERSAL TEST Can Government correct course?	Support restoration pathway Emergency review process Corrective action powers Reform adjustment mechanism	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If reforms create harm, there must be a way back.
7	TRANSPARENCY TEST Can the public see whether reform is working?	Public reporting Outcome reporting Harm reporting Progress reporting	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Transparency drives accountability.
8	INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT TEST Who is independently monitoring reform?	Independent oversight body Independent evaluation Independent review Reporting to Parliament	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Governments should not be the sole judges of their own success.
9	EQUITY TEST Who is most affected?	First Nations peoples CALD communities Regional communities Women and girls Complex support needs	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Reforms should not widen existing inequities.
10	LEARNING TEST Are reforms improving over time?	Pilot before scale Continuous improvement Six-monthly review Public lessons learned	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	The goal is learning and improvement, not simply implementation.

READINESS IS THE FIRST TEST. ACCOUNTABILITY IS THE SECOND.

The Readiness Index asks whether reform can safely commence. Both tests must be passed.

Click here to:

HELP BUILD SYSTEMS THAT WORK