

On Monday 27 July 2026, every mobile phone across Australia will sound a loud test siren.

A one-page plan for parents, carers, employers and professionals supporting autistic people.

2:00pm AEST

QLD • NSW • VIC • TAS • ACT

1:30pm ACST

SA • NT

12:00pm AWST

WA

WHAT IS AUSALERT?

AusAlert is Australia's new national emergency warning system. In a real emergency — bushfire, flood, severe storm — it sends an alert with instructions to every mobile phone in the affected area. During Monday's test, a message will appear on device screens (some smartwatches and tablets too), and a loud siren will sound for about **10 seconds** — **even on 'silent' or 'do not disturb'**. **You don't need to do anything.**

THE WEEK BEFORE



Talk about it early and often. Brief everyone around the person — family, support workers, colleagues, teachers, clinicians. Same words, same plan, everywhere.



Agree on one simple script so home, work and services all say the same thing: "Phones will make a very loud sound. It is only a test. Everything is OK."



Put the test in the person's schedule — calendar, visual schedule or social story for Monday 27 July. Play the siren from ausalert.gov.au ahead of time so everyone knows what to expect — familiar sounds are less scary!

ON THE DAY



Keep the day predictable around the test time — avoid appointments, transitions or new demands. Plan a low-demand, preferred activity instead.



Have sensory supports ready: headphones, a quiet space, weighted items — whatever you know works for the person.



During the 10 seconds: stay close, stay calm, count it down together. Then name the ending: "That was the test. It's finished. Everything is OK."



If the alert is likely to cause distress, you can opt out. Switch nearby devices off or to aeroplane mode before your local test time, and leave them off for at least an hour. Some devices may sound later, or not at all — that is expected. Older devices may show "Presidential Alert" or "Extreme Threat Alert"; it is the same test.