

# DO YOU NEED A SENSORY ROOM?

## 8 QUESTIONS TO EXPLORE



Illustration of a person looking confused

[Read the Full Blog](#)

# 1. WHY ARE YOU DOING IT?

## Feedback

Are people asking for one?

## Trends

Other airports have one?

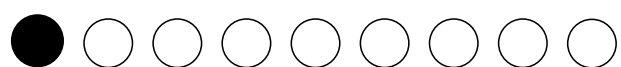
## Last Resort

All options have been explored?

***Without a clear, evidence-based rationale, projects often fail to deliver expected outcomes.***



Illustration of someone chasing a trophy



# 2. WHERE IS YOUR ADVICE COMING FROM?

## Users

Did people that will benefit from the space co-create it?

## Designers

Have they seen this option work elsewhere and are applying the same solution this airport?

## Families / Advocates

Are they supporting this solution because they can't see the airport considering other options?

***Getting this wrong is expensive. Airports need the right advice to navigate competing stakeholder interests.***

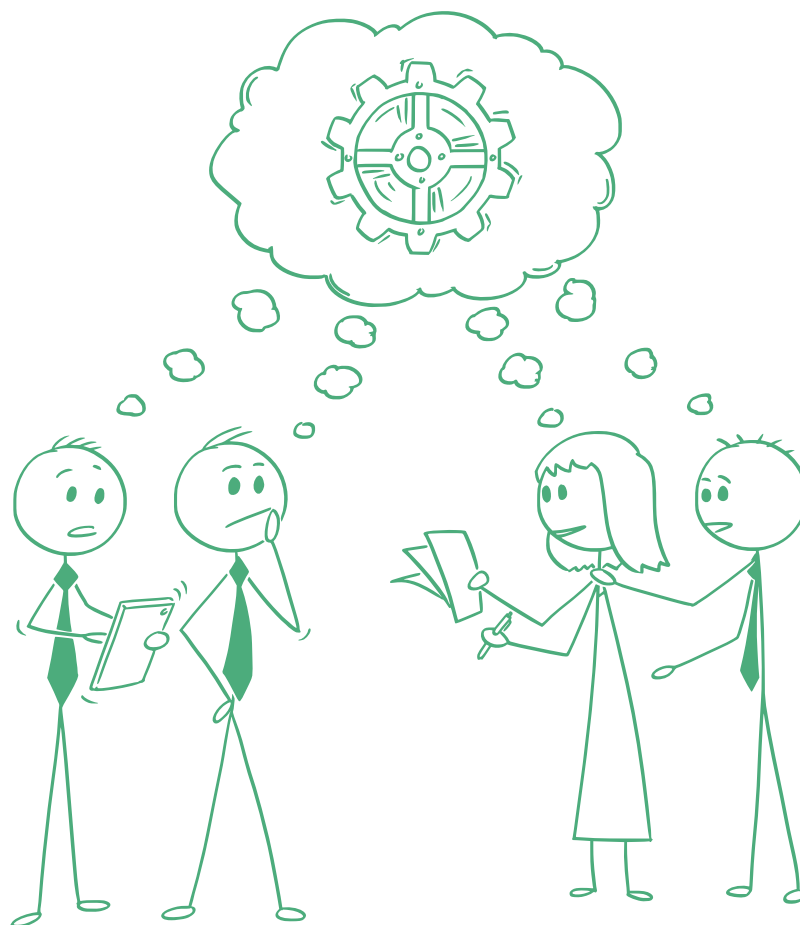


Illustration of a 4 people discussing topics as a group holding papers with a shared thought-cloud with a cog inside it



# 3. WHAT IS THE SENSORY ROOM REALLY FOR?

## Occupational Therapy

Is this a controlled space where people can explore and manage their sensory response?

## Rehabilitation Clinicians

Is this an environment designed for treatment for environmental triggers?

## Resetting

Were the preceding experiences so overwhelming that this solution is required?

*Misalignment between intent and design is the primary reason these spaces fail.*

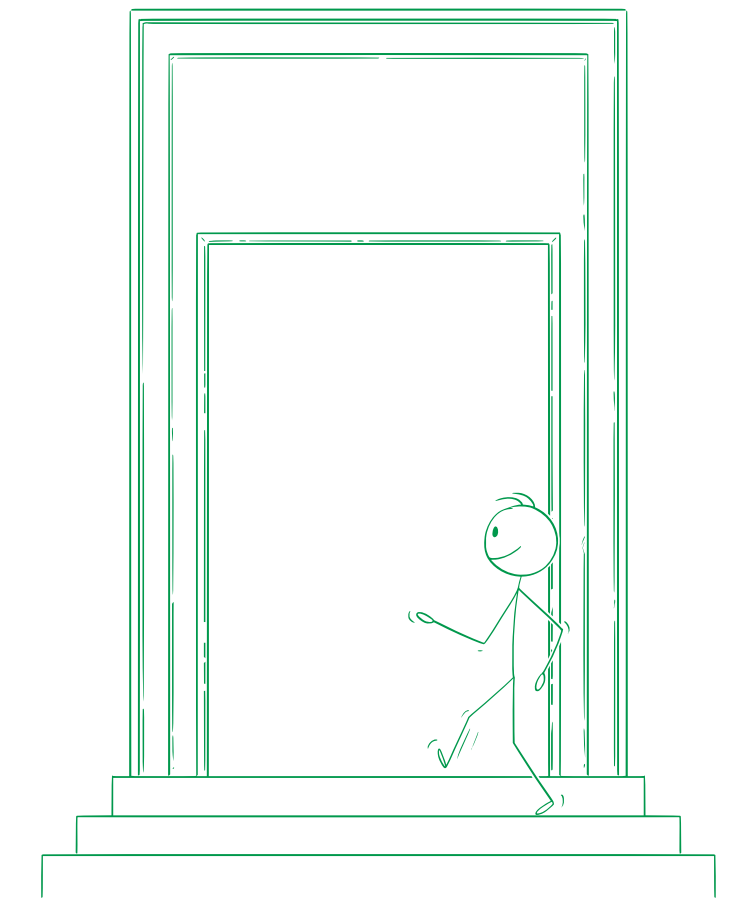
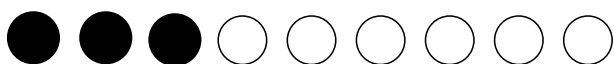


Illustration of a person entering a room through an opening



# 4. ARE THEY TRULY INCLUSIVE?

## Exclusion

Is your space multi purpose and does it risk having too broad an offer for those that need a specific environment?

## Reinforce current societal ideals

Is the expectation that these spaces will help people regroup so they can continue to experience the airport?

## In context

Is the space designed specifically for the environment and need?

*True inclusion is systemic, not spatial.*

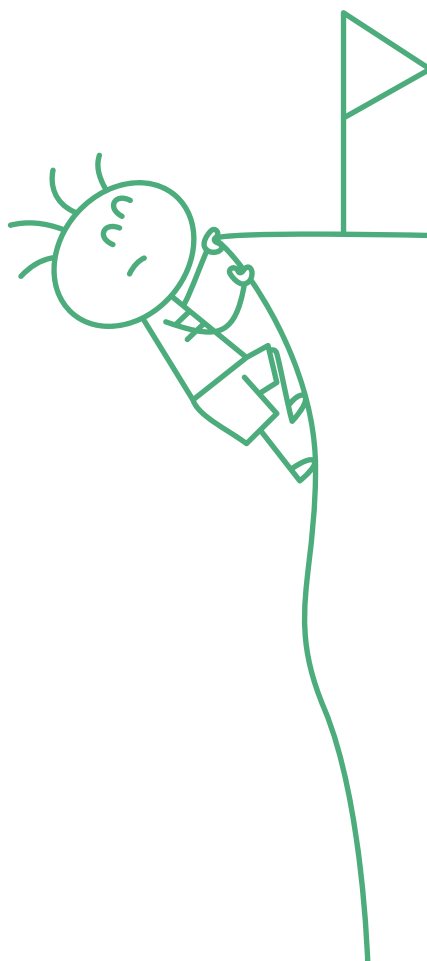


Illustration of a person struggling up a cliff to reach a flag at the top



# 5. IS IT A TOKEN GESTURE?

## A tick box

Did pressure from management or community lead you down this path?

## Seeking acceptance

Is meeting expectations giving you a sense of achievement and 'doing the right thing'?

*Getting accessibility right builds credibility with users and advocates.*

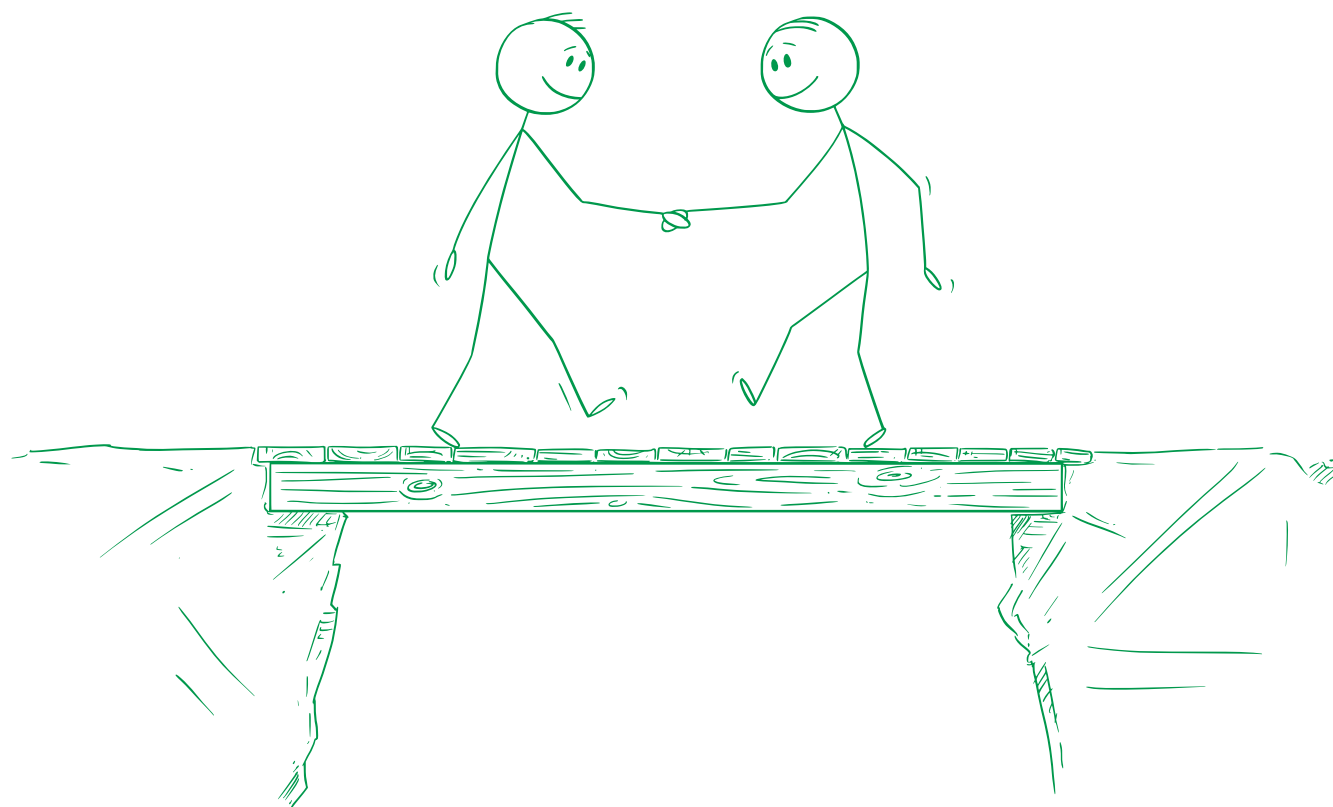


Illustration of a two people shaking hands on a bridge over a cavity



# 6. ARE YOU ON THE 'BANDWAGON'?

## Advocacy

What approach are you encouraging others to implement?

## Knowledge Sharing

How clear are you on the needs of those the space is designed for?

*Industry trends don't equal individual airport needs.*

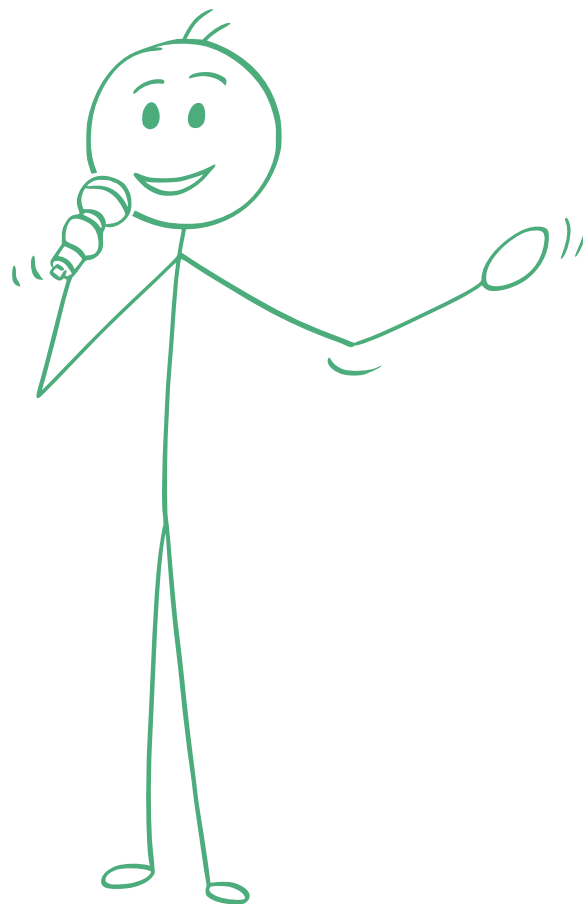


Illustration of a person with a microphone making a speech



# 7. ARE YOU ADDRESSING THE BARRIER?

## **Know Your People**

What is the entire experience like, right back at planning stage?

## **Do the hard yards**

What is the right set of solutions to remove barriers?

## **No need to hide people away**

Have you set everyone up for success for barrier-free travel?

**Isolated interventions rarely solve systemic barriers.**

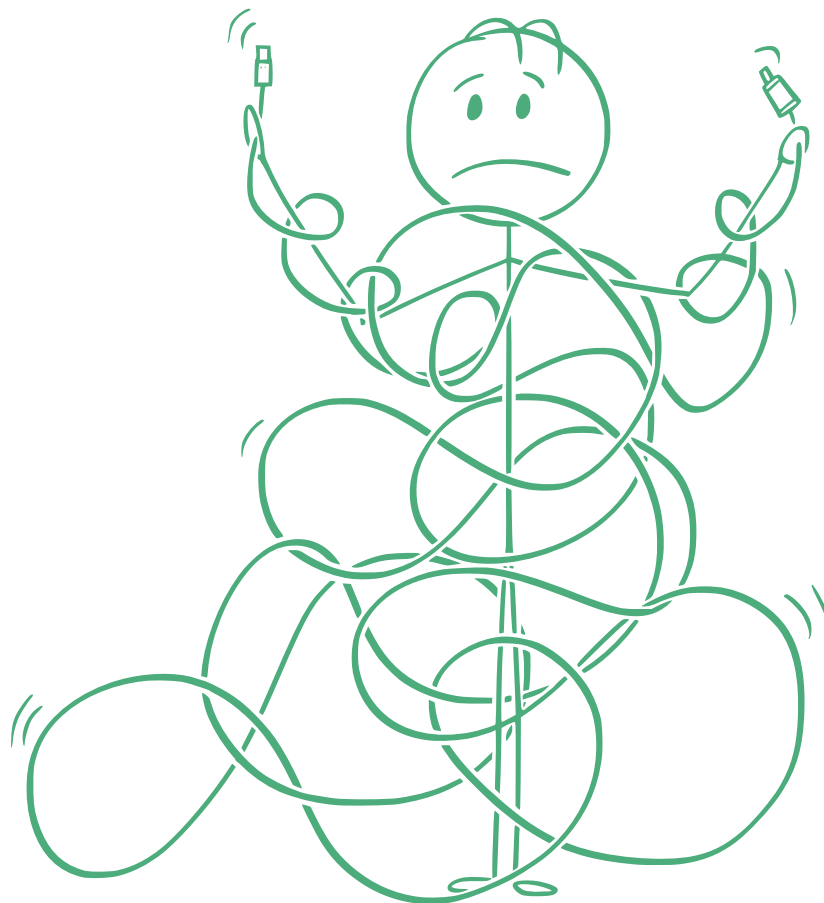


Illustration of a person that is tangled in cords looking confused





# 8. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING ?

## **Expectations**

How are the clinical and rehabilitation tools in the room to be used?

## **Social Rules**

What are the expected behaviours in the space?

## **Clear Standards**

How will things such as length of use, employee use, food and drink, levels of noise, light, movement, occupancy numbers etc be managed?

**Operational protocols determine whether spaces succeed or fail.**

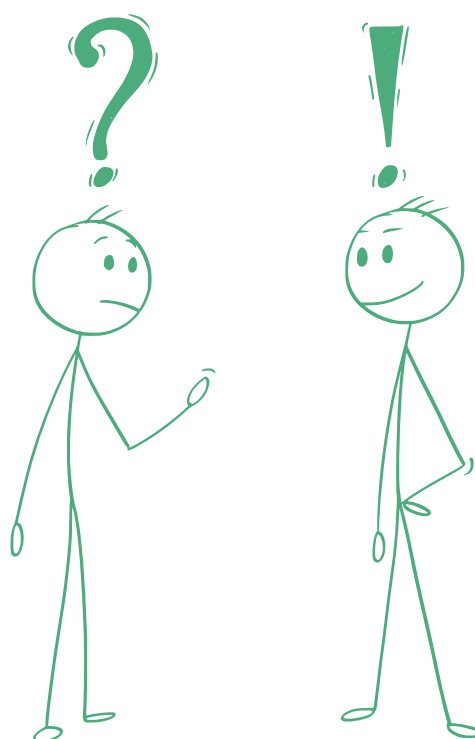


Illustration of a two people one with a question mark above their head and the other with an exclamation mark



# WHAT NOW?

Before you commit to a sensory room, ask:

- What barrier am I actually trying to remove?
- Could I address this barrier in a way that benefits all passengers?
- Have I consulted with the actual people who will use this space, not just their representatives?
- Is this the best use of space and resources for my specific airport environment?

**These questions reveal the complexity of making the right decision for YOUR airport.**



Illustration of a person looking happy and walking along a path to a flag at the end

[Get in Touch](#)

