

Spiritual and Cultural Domains of Care



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Spirituality in a person's life:

- **Identity**
- **Connectedness and Relationships**
- **Meaning & Purpose**

- **Spirituality creates coherence amongst a person's varied experiences.**

Bruce Rumbold

Spirituality and Religion are not the same.

Everyone has a spirituality
but not everyone has a religion.

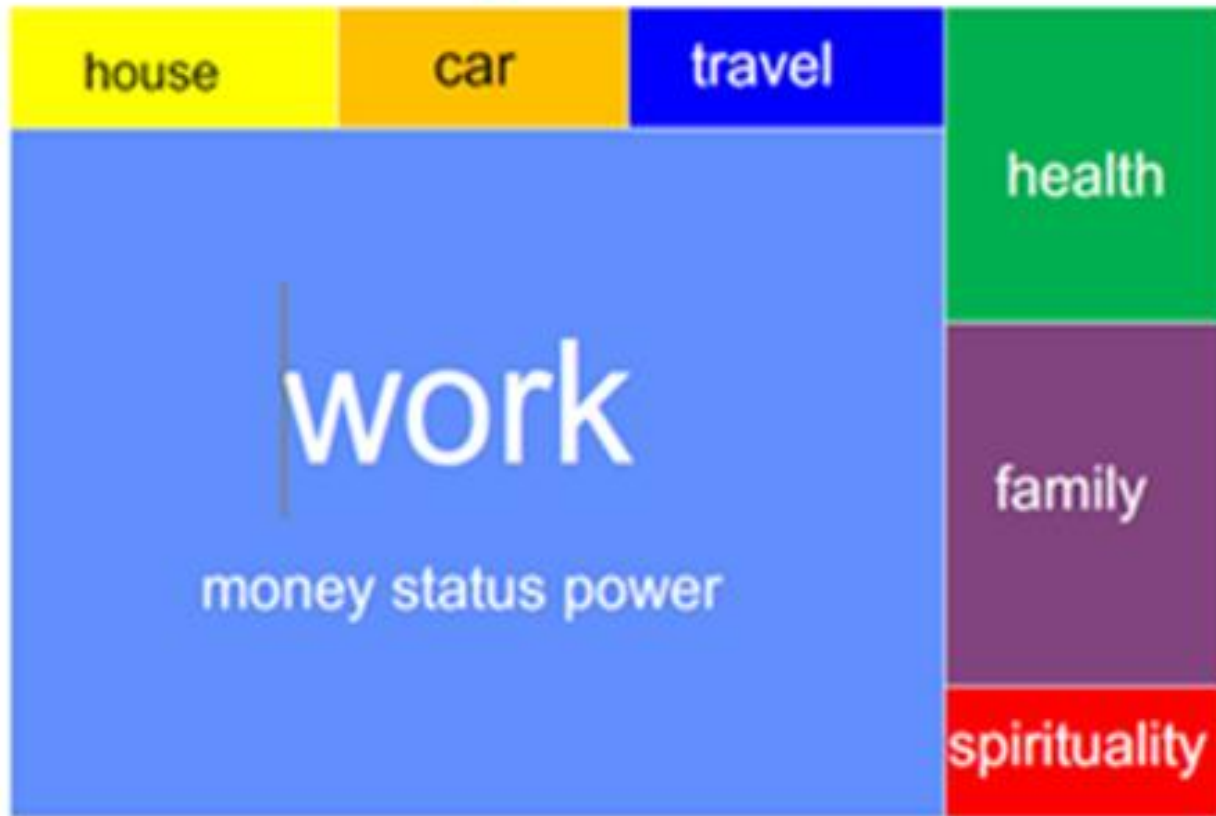
Latest census 27% of population declared no religion and
7% did not fill in the religion question.

Case Study: Paul Corr

- Paul is 51 years old. Paul has worked for the same company for 32 years. He started as a salesman who sold acoustic tiles, became sales manager and now is the general manager with an annual salary of \$200,000.
- Paul is happily married with two sons. On weekends he plays golf, watches his youngest son play rugby or goes fishing with his oldest son Peter. Paul and his wife Joan often go out to dinner with friends.
- Paul is particularly proud of his Jaguar car.

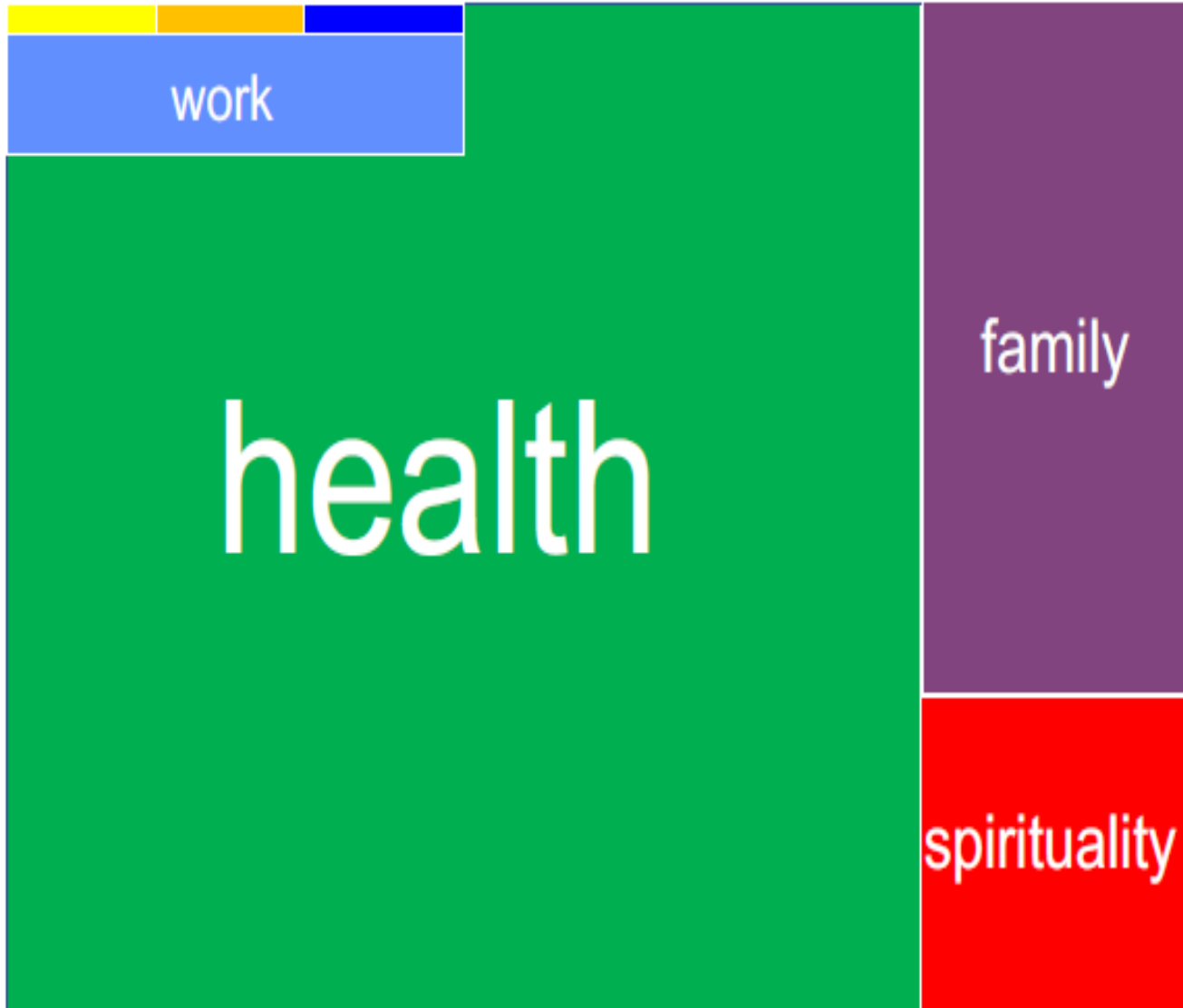
- **What is important is Paul's life?**
- **What are the connections in his life?**

Healthy person's world



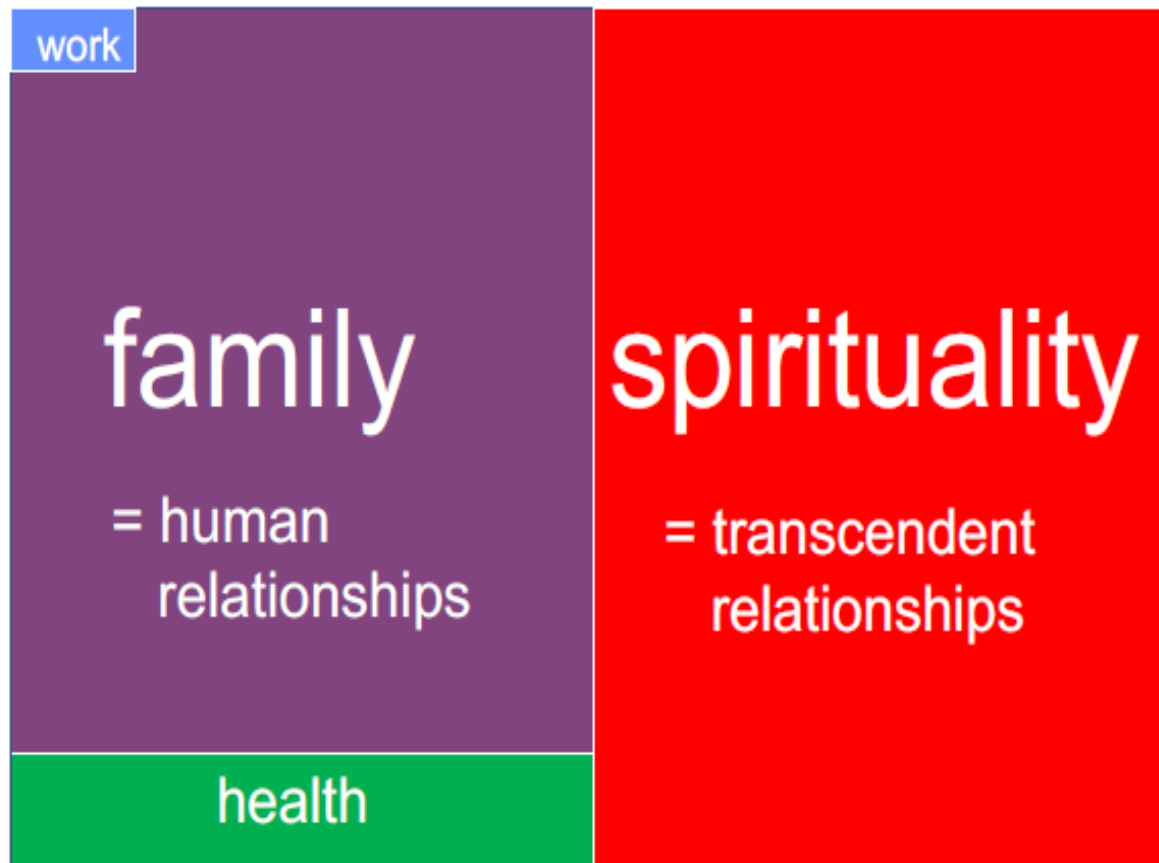
by Dr Megan Best, Institute for Ethics and Society, University of Notre Dame Australia

Sick person's world



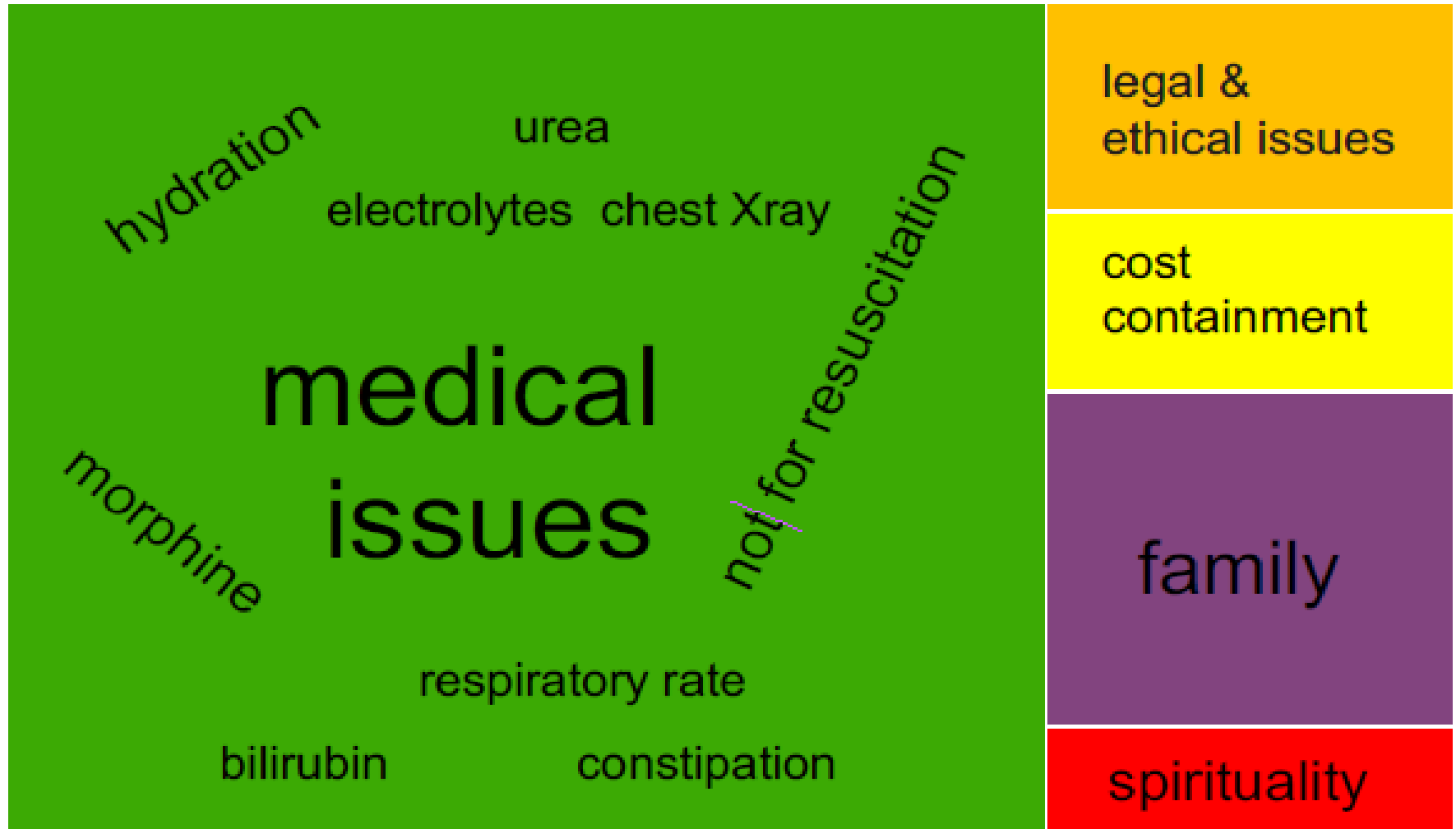
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Dying person's world



by Dr Megan Best, Institute for Ethics and Society, University of Notre Dame Australia

Doctor's view of a dying patient's world



Population

Cultures

Chinese

Greek

Italian

Nepalese

Indian

Arabic

Philipino

Religions

Roman Catholic

Anglican

Greek Orthodox

Buddism

Hinduism

Islam

*The world is my country
All mankind are my brethren
And to do good is my religion*

Thomas Paine

Suffering

- A physical or psychological state that reduces a person's ability to find peace, harmony or reconciliation with their current situation.

Bernadette Orange

Existential Distress

An individual questions the very
foundations of their life:

Whether this life has any meaning,
purpose or value?

Symptoms of existential suffering:

- Hopelessness
- No sense of dignity remaining
- Desire for death and the lack of will to live

Bernadette Orange

The goal of spiritual care

- To maintain wherever possible the connecting strands important to the person
- To support the person in grieving the loss of connections that have been important
- To encourage the person to revive neglected connecting strands or look for new connections

Dedicated to all the Clinicians

Slowly I learned about the importance of powerlessness; I experience it in my own life and I live with it at work. The secret is not to be afraid of it- not to run away. The dying know we are not God. They only ask that we do not desert them.

Sheila Cassidy 1988

The majority of people go through life thinking they are invincible.



