

## 1b1

# Domain-specific Assessment

### Do

Develop an assessment framework that helps you to find out in detail what the person wants and can give to a specific aspect of the community.

### Story

*Pulchalski and Romer (2000)* ask 4 questions in their spirituality assessment; (1) What do you believe in that gives meaning to your life? (2) How important is your faith (or religion or spirituality) to you? (3) Are you a part of a

religious or spiritual community? (4) How can I support this part of your life?

‘A terminally ill man reported 10 out of 10 on a scale of suffering. He had regularly attended a certain religious service and was not unable to do so, which he experienced as unbearable suffering. With permission carers contacted the faith group, who visited him at home. His suffering score dropped to zero.’ (*Baines 2000*)

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### Hints & Hazards

This could be self-assessment. Find out about the inclusion history of the person – the things that they have been involved with in the past and how this has worked out. This is an opportunity to hear from the person what makes sense to them, not to impose our own perspective.

See 'Employment Profile' (1b2) for an example in the employment field. The Spirituality Action Team (2003) has developed a list of descriptive phrases to promote discussion about aspects of spirituality.

This approach does not give scales to measure people against, but does open up aspects of the domain to explore.

Other areas of life can be assessed too. For example, the Barron Welsh Art Scale examines creativity.

People with narrowed life experience will benefit from tasters to help them find out what works for them. Other people may have a fund of past life experience that will provide the evidence of what will work in the future. Bear in mind that getting to know people takes time and we cannot assume that people will say what is really happening to them at our first meeting.