

Broadening a Hope-Filled, Strength-Based Approach to Career Education



Cannexus20 Conference, January 2020



My role in
broadening a hope-filled strength-based approach
to career education

- 10 weeks of training in Victoria, Australia in 2019
- Full schedule of workshops and presentations
 - 12 2-day workshops
 - 10 1-day workshops
 - 1 ½ day workshop
 - 2 conference keynotes
 - 1 roundtable discussion with education stakeholders

Broadening a hope-filled strength-based approach to career education

- 10 weeks of training
- Full schedule of workshops and presentations
- Diversity of participants

- Diversity of participants:
 - Teachers and counsellors
 - Career support workers
 - Workers involved in Out of Home Care
 - Workers involved in Middle Years Literacy and Numeracy Strategy
 - Kooire Workforce
 - Corrections educators from Victoria's corrections system
 - Leaders of stakeholder groups related to Victoria education

- Diversity of participants:
 - Diversity of need
 - Broad range of awareness of the need to address the life/career journeys of students
 - career is not just for the “career” workers in a school; it is for all involved in a school
 - High level of commitment to address the need from many different directions



CHALLENGES

&

POSSIBILITIES



increasing need
for a diversity
of tools and concepts
for increasingly diverse
populations

BROADENING

a hope-filled
strength-based approach
to career education



increasing need
for a diversity
of tools and concepts
for increasingly diverse
populations

- Aboriginal youth
- immigrants and refugees
- youth with disabilities
- youth in the justice system
- youth in government care
- all youth (generational diversity)

increasing need
for a diversity
of tools and concepts
for increasingly diverse
populations



accessibility for those
who have a life journey
different from those for whom
more traditional approaches
have been developed

ACCESSIBILITY

language, tools, processes, concepts

kind of life?

goals

life/work
roles?

work exp



education

learning?

skills, etc

what can you do?



increasing need
for a diversity
of tools and concepts
for increasingly diverse
populations



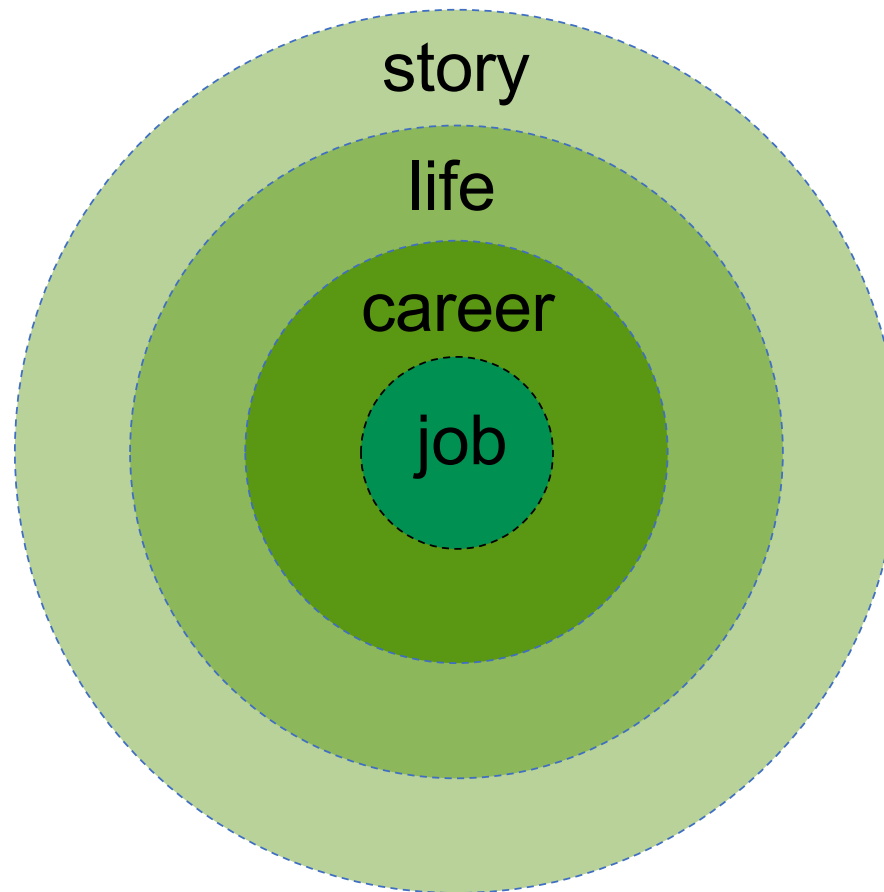
supplement
traditional approaches
with alternative
tools and concepts

self-defeating inner
stories that result in
hopelessness and
giving up

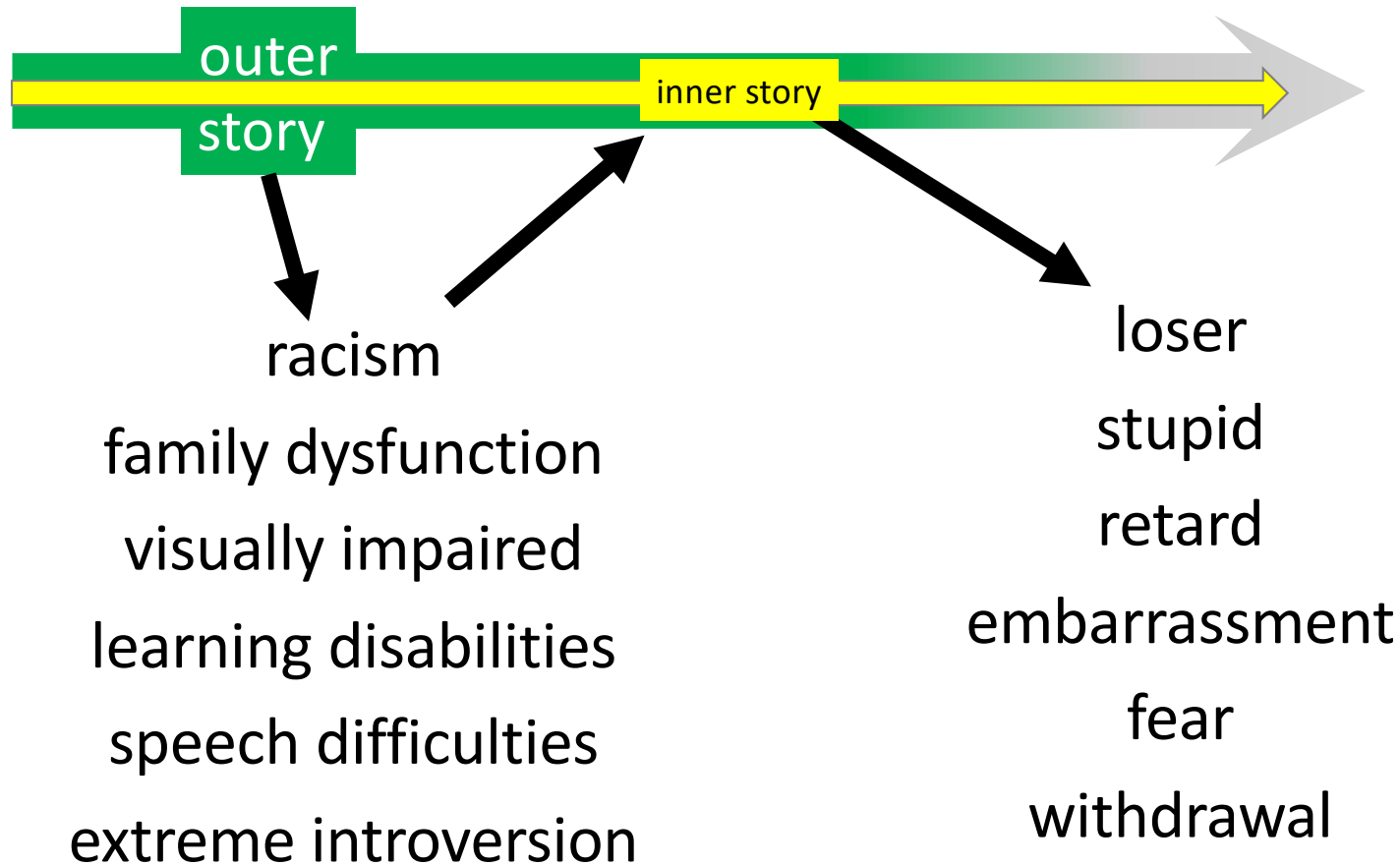


explore ways to craft
a better story
that can sustain them
as they move forward
on their life/career journey

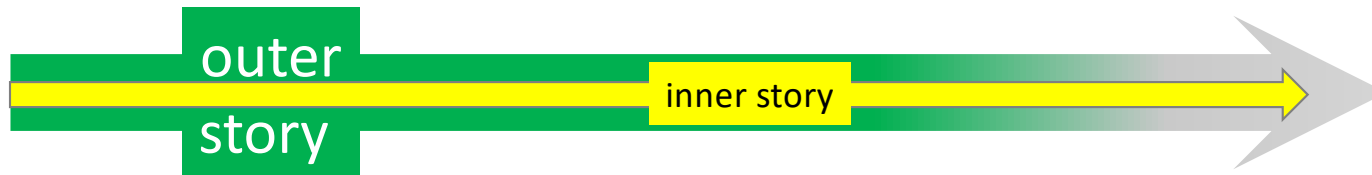
An Expanding Focus of Hope



My Life/Career Journey

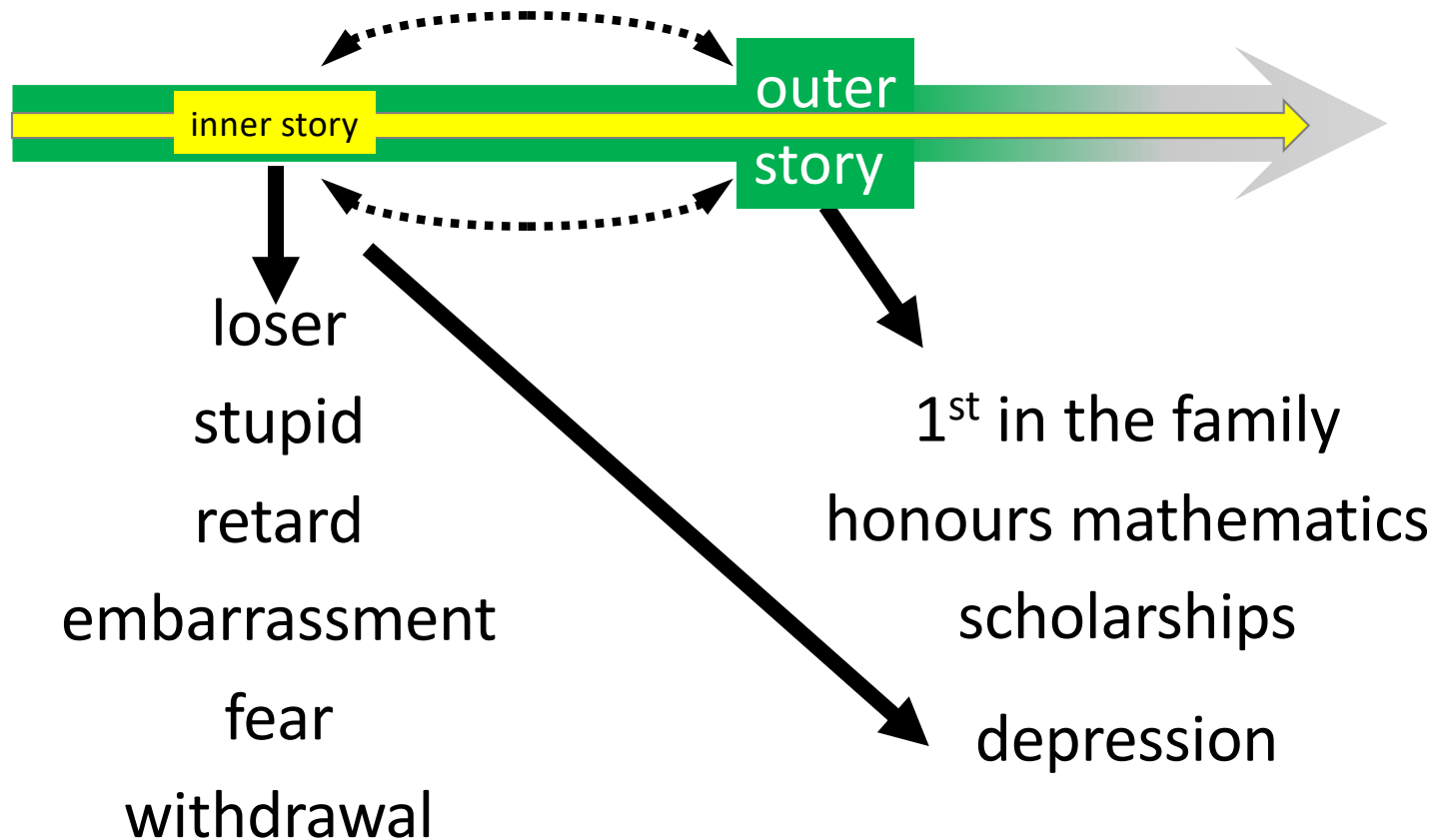


Life/Career Journey



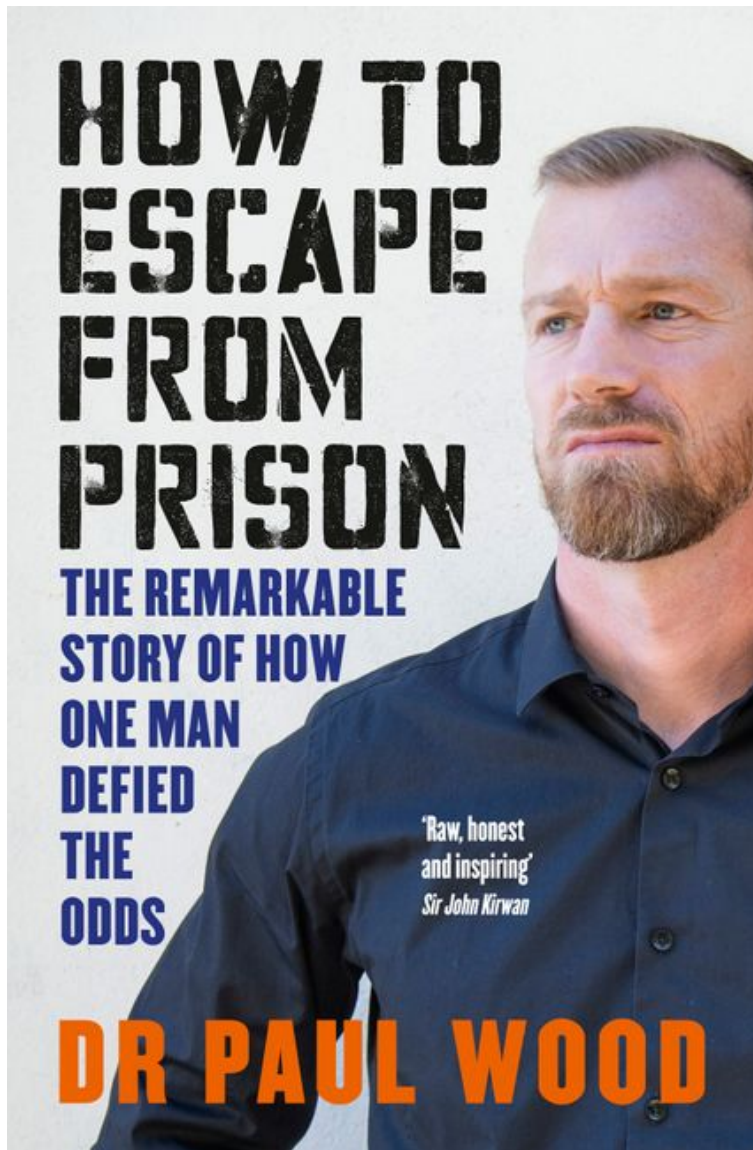
the story I tell myself about my life
Becomes the lens
through which
I view my life,
choose my life,
and experience my life

My Life/Career Journey



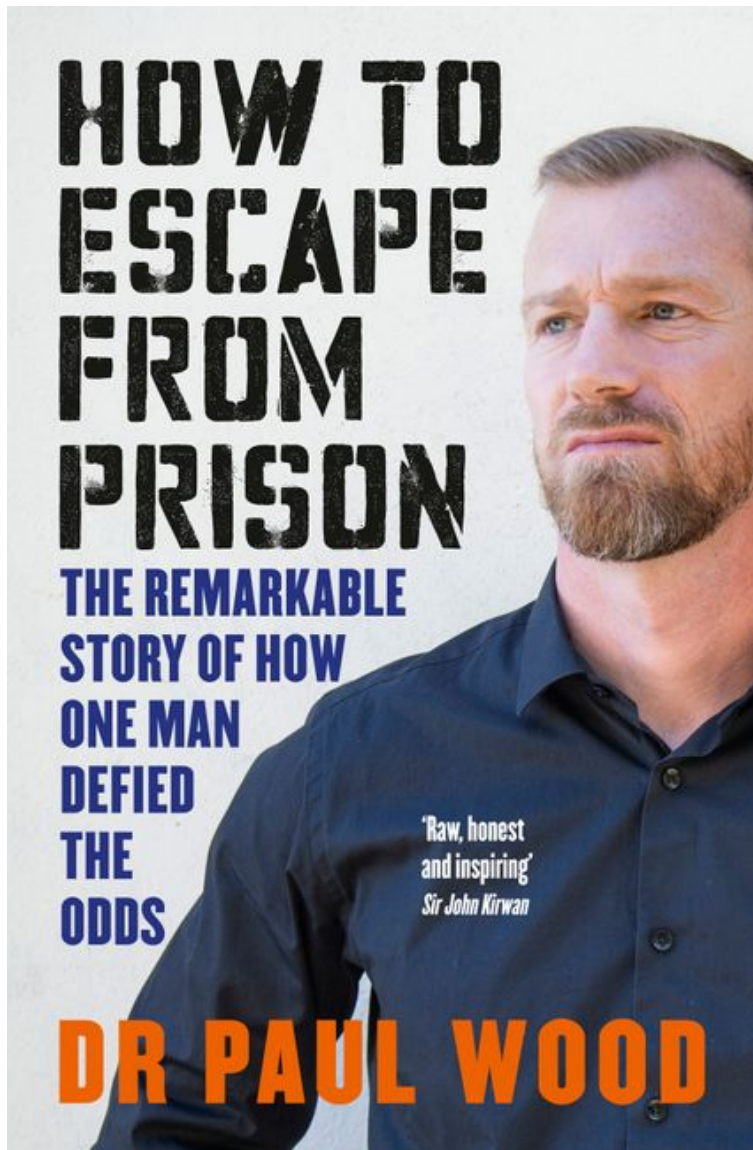


we need to intentionally
address the inner story
and not just the outer story

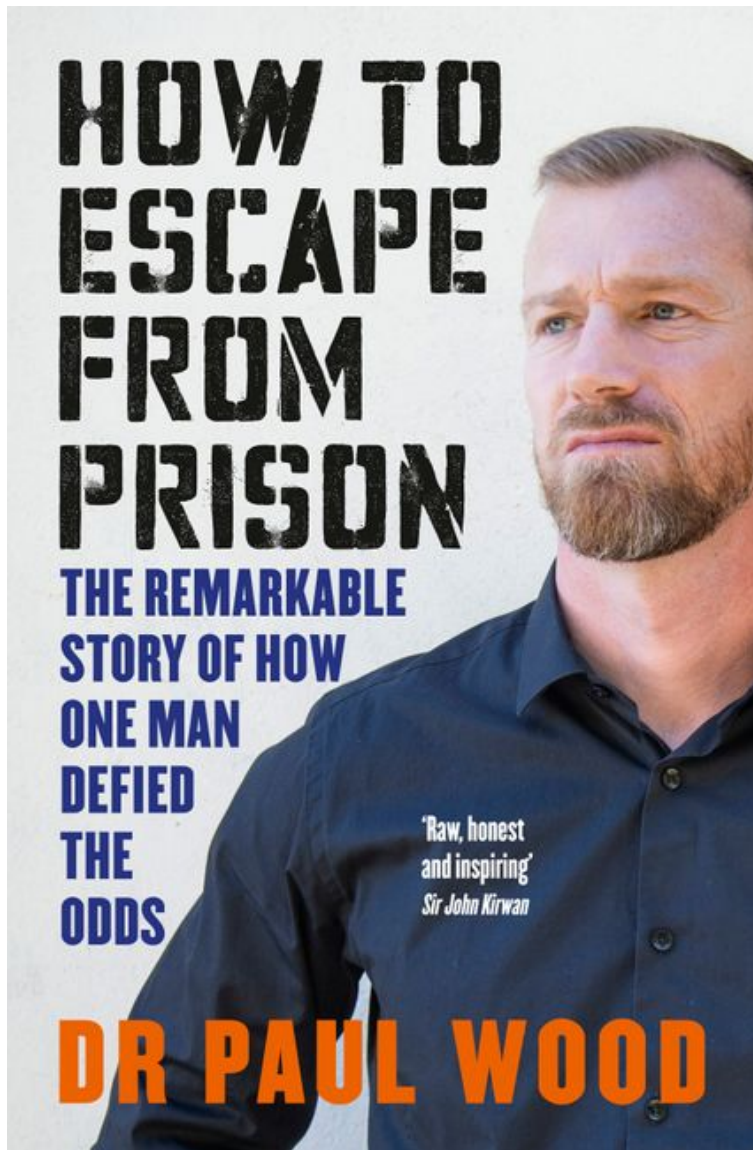


My name is Paul Wood,
and I am a free man.

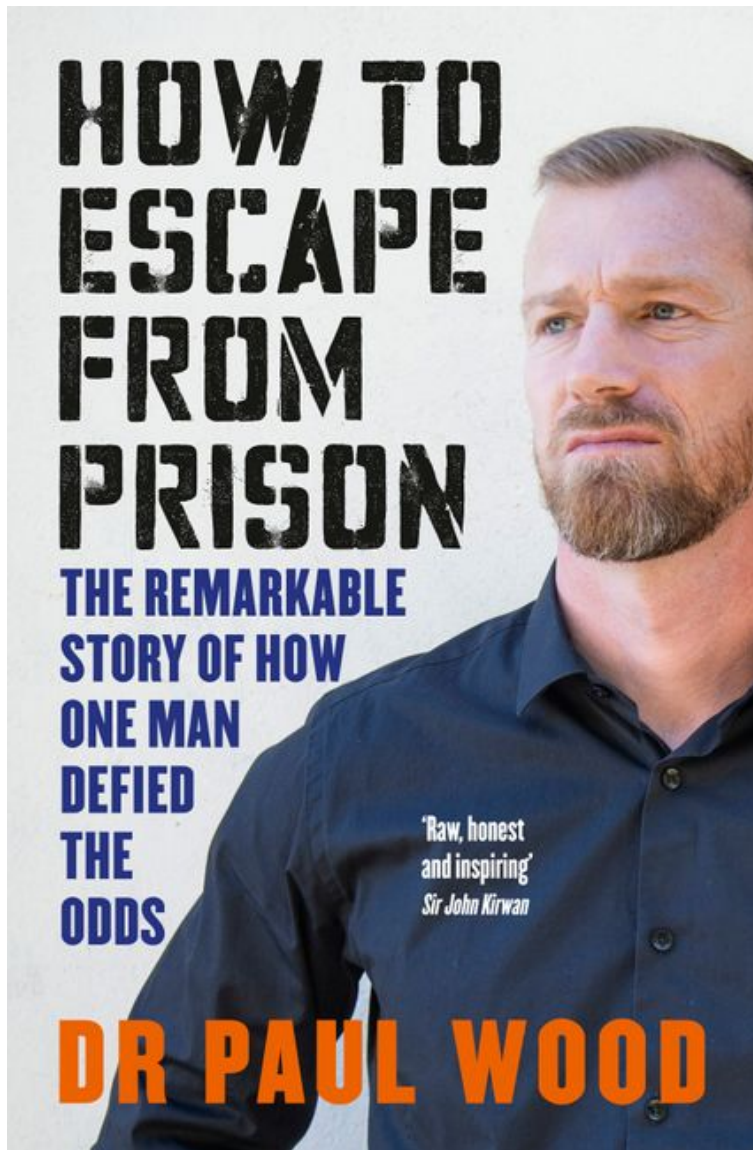
What I didn't know then
but have come to realise
is that I had been
in prison for many years
before I was ever
locked up.



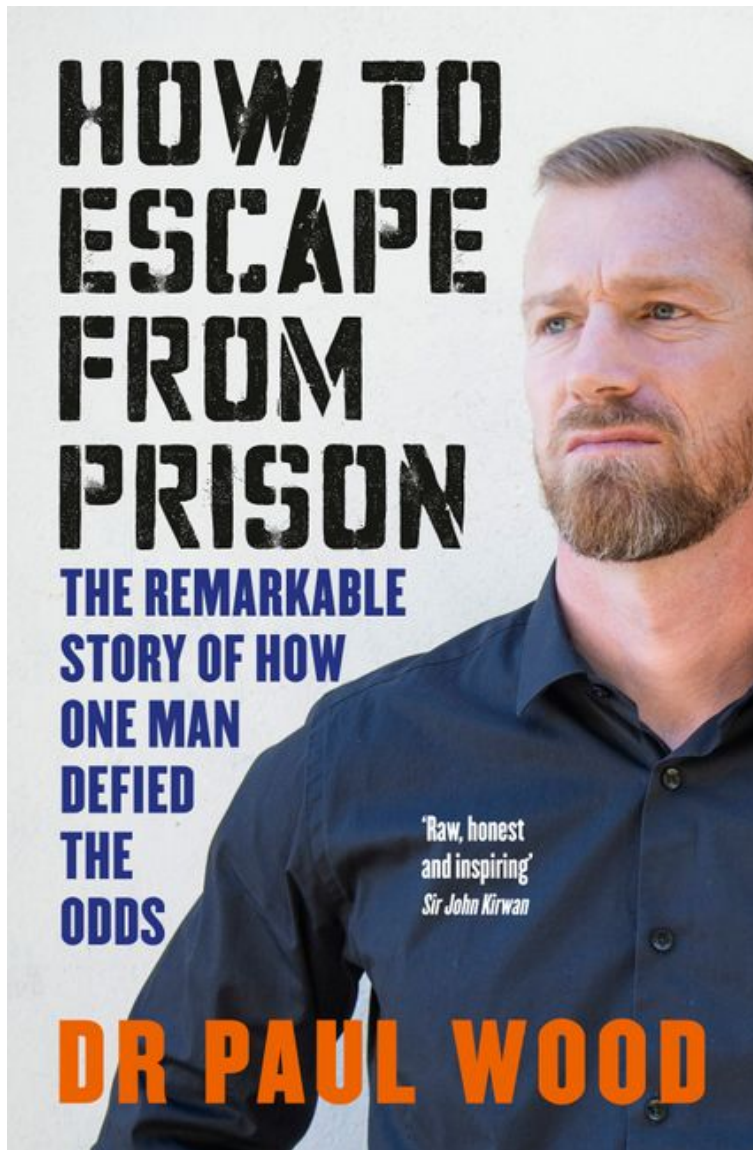
It's one of the rich ironies of my life's journey that I had to go to prison to learn how to be free.



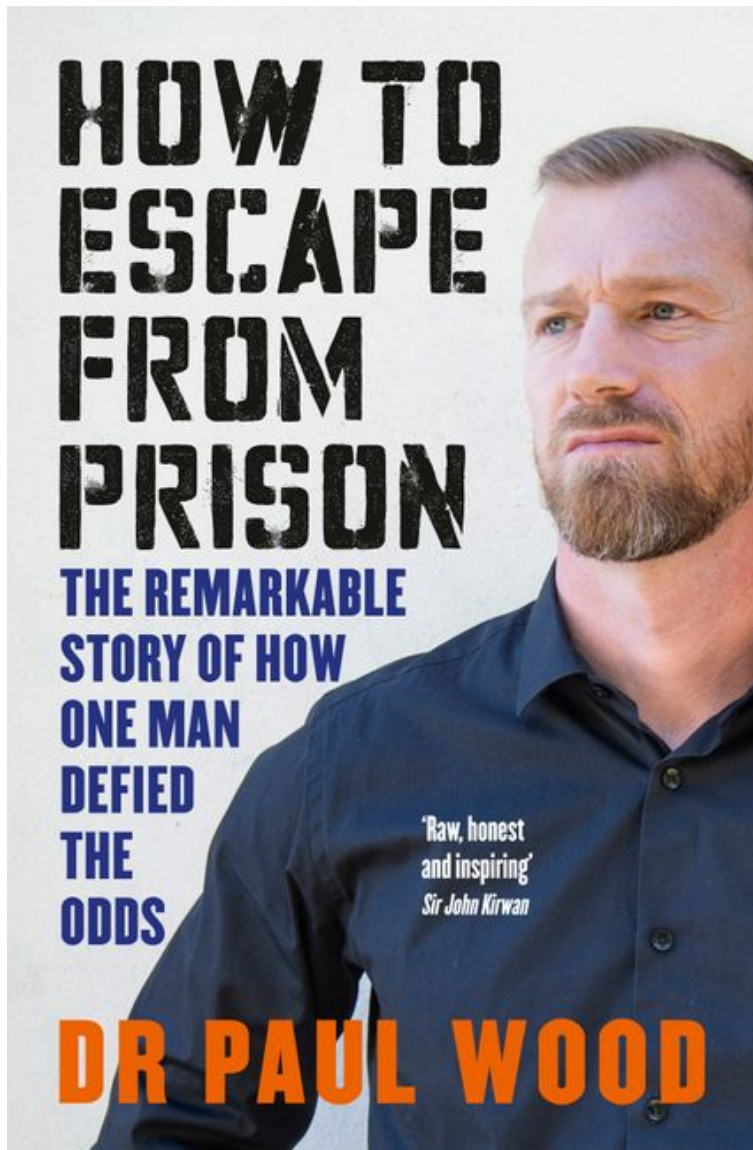
What I also came to realise while I was physically incarcerated was that most of the people I was inside with, and a hell of a lot of people walking around outside who assume they're free,



are locked up
in mindsets
that prevent them
from living full,
authentic lives.



They are imprisoned
by their beliefs
about their limitations,
about who they are
supposed to be
and what they are or
aren't supposed to feel.



That's as much
of a waste
of human potential
as anything
the criminal justice
system has to offer.

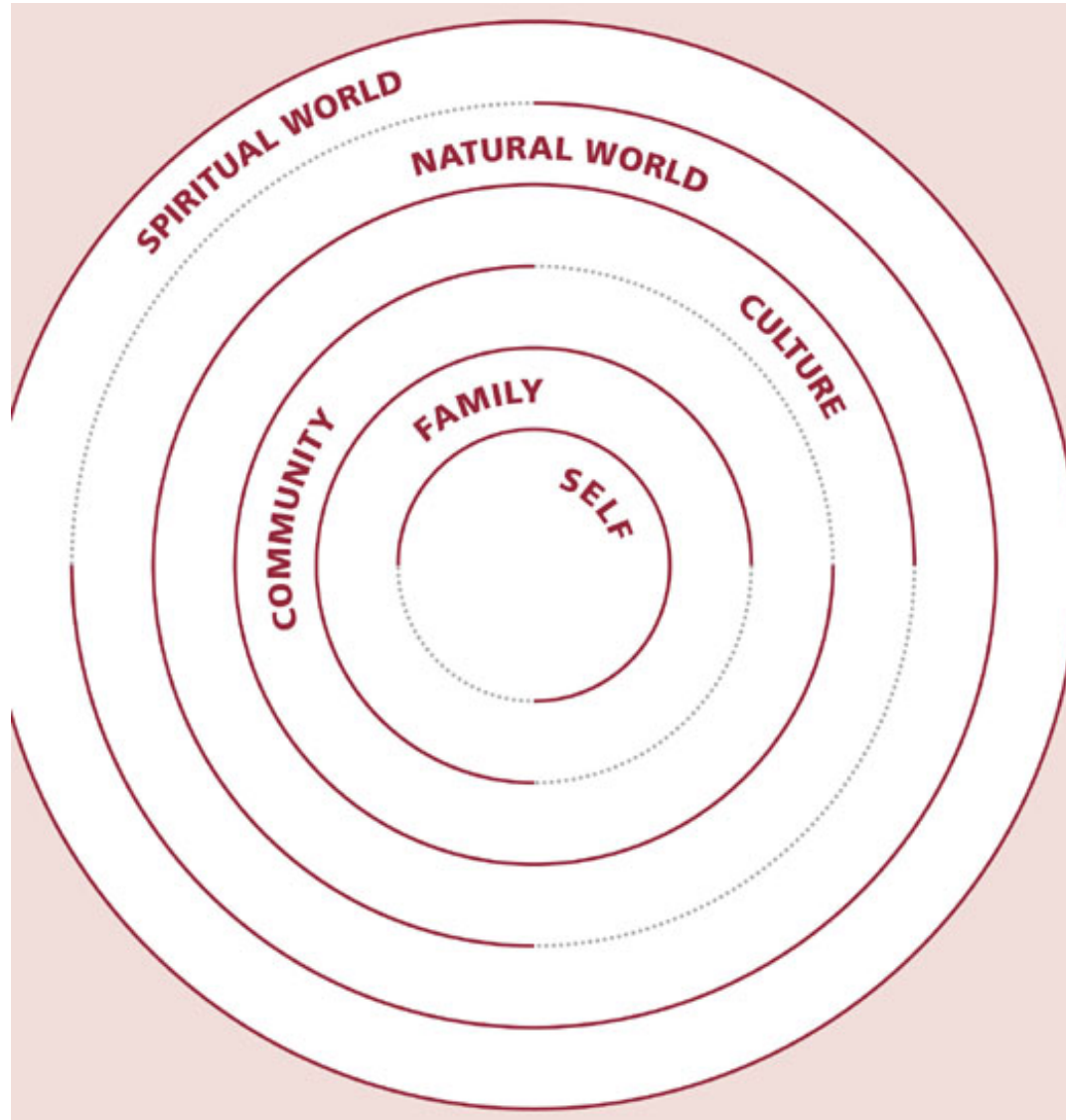
disconnection
from their own selves
and from their world

&

encourage people
to cultivate meaningful
connections
with their world

Connections

(Guiding Circles
& Hope-Filled
Engagement)



disconnection
from their own selves
and from their world

&

show people
how to affirm
who they are
in culturally appropriate ways



e.g. enculturated humility

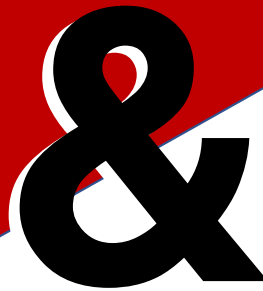
show people
how to affirm
who they are
in culturally appropriate ways

struggles accepting the
whole person
(including “weaknesses”
not just “strengths”)



storytelling that affirms
the whole person and
the potential of success
no matter
one's level of capacity

struggles accepting the
whole person
(including “weaknesses”
not just “strengths”)



show how to leverage
both their perceived “strengths”
and perceived “weaknesses.”

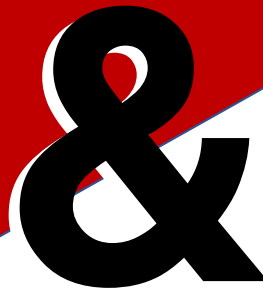


weight of the
“destination model”
of career planning

**“What are you going to do
with your life?”**

a weighty question
that can be too much to bear

weight of the
“destination model”
of career planning



show how to prepare
for the journey of a lifetime
- their life/career journey

AN UNCHARTED JOURNEY

into a world of life/work
characterized by

complexity

change

uncertainty

chaos

confusion

Prepare for the Journey of a Lifetime

If you give a person a fish, they eat for a day;
If you teach a person to fish, they eat for a lifetime.

Balance:
at times both are needed

Prepare for the Journey of a Lifetime

What do they need
to journey?

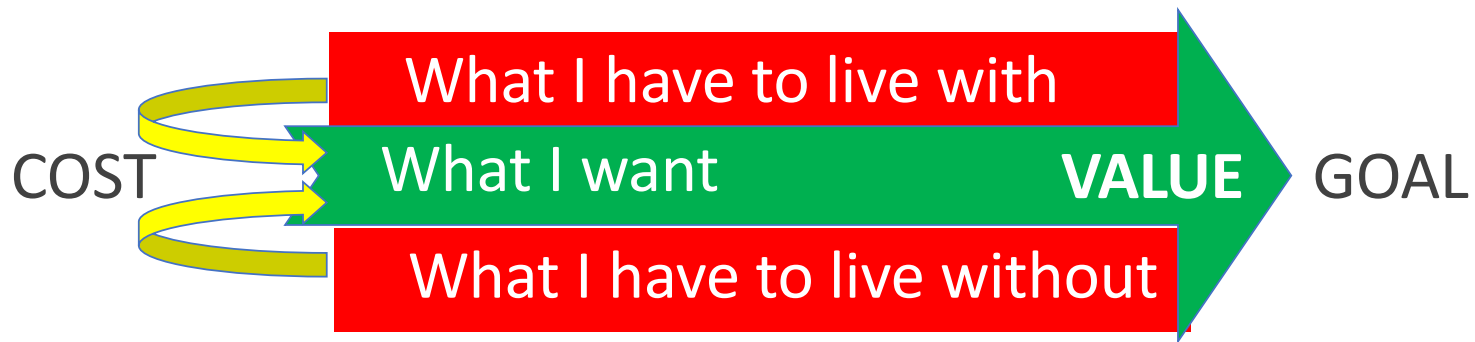
Prepare for the Journey of a Lifetime

life/career skills
that will be used
throughout our life/career journeys.

Prepare for the Journey of a Lifetime

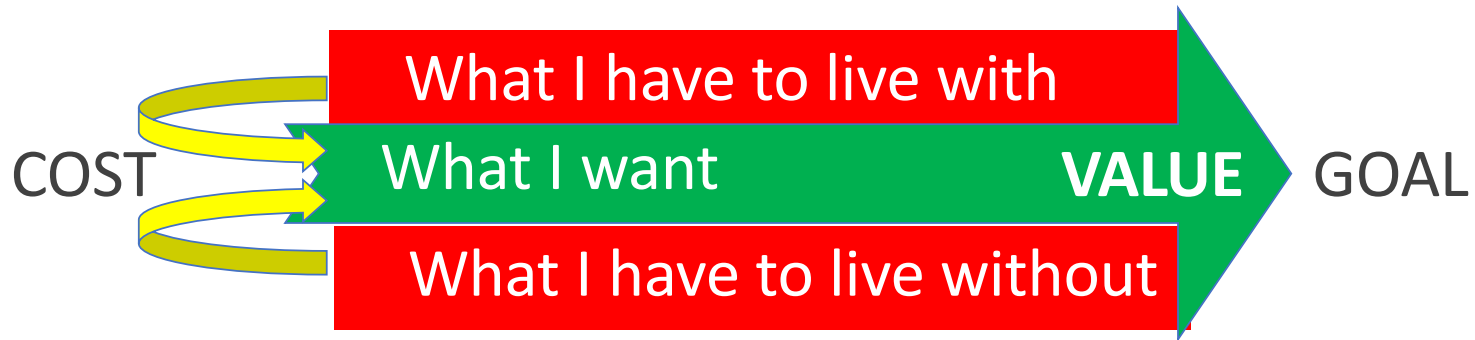
- How to craft a story of hope and possibilities
- How to negotiate their identity
- How to discover what they want in their life
- How to choose what they want out of life
- How to start and keep going

Every path I choose has 3 parts



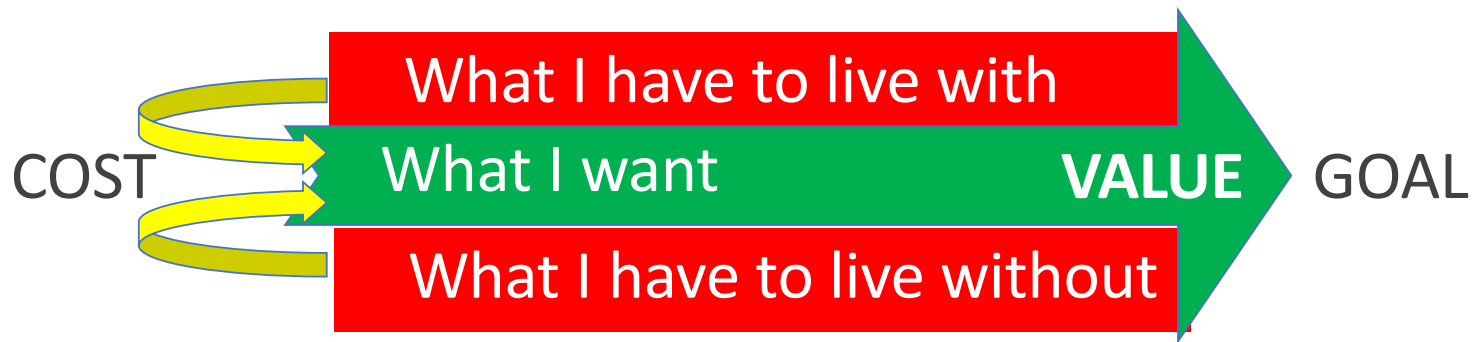
the cost we are willing to pay
points to the value
we place on what we do

Every path I choose has 3 parts



creatively balance the cost
with the value of the goal

Every path I choose has 3 parts



Every day with the choices I make,
I spend my life, my time.

Am I spending it on what I really want?



Q

&

A

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