

# UNLOCKING THE POWER OF AUSTRALIA'S SIKH YOUTH

**Retaining Sikh identity and  
contributing to a thriving  
inclusive Australia beyond 2020**





# Who am I?

- ◆ Born in Bopa Rai Kalan near Nakodar in the Jalandhar District in north west Punjab, India.
- ◆ Migrated to Australia as a baby with my parents.
- ◆ Four children
- ◆ Live in an extended family on the Sunshine Coast in Qld.
- ◆ Science background



Light travels faster than sound,  
That is why some people appear very  
bright until you hear them speak



# IDENTITY and CULTURE



YOU

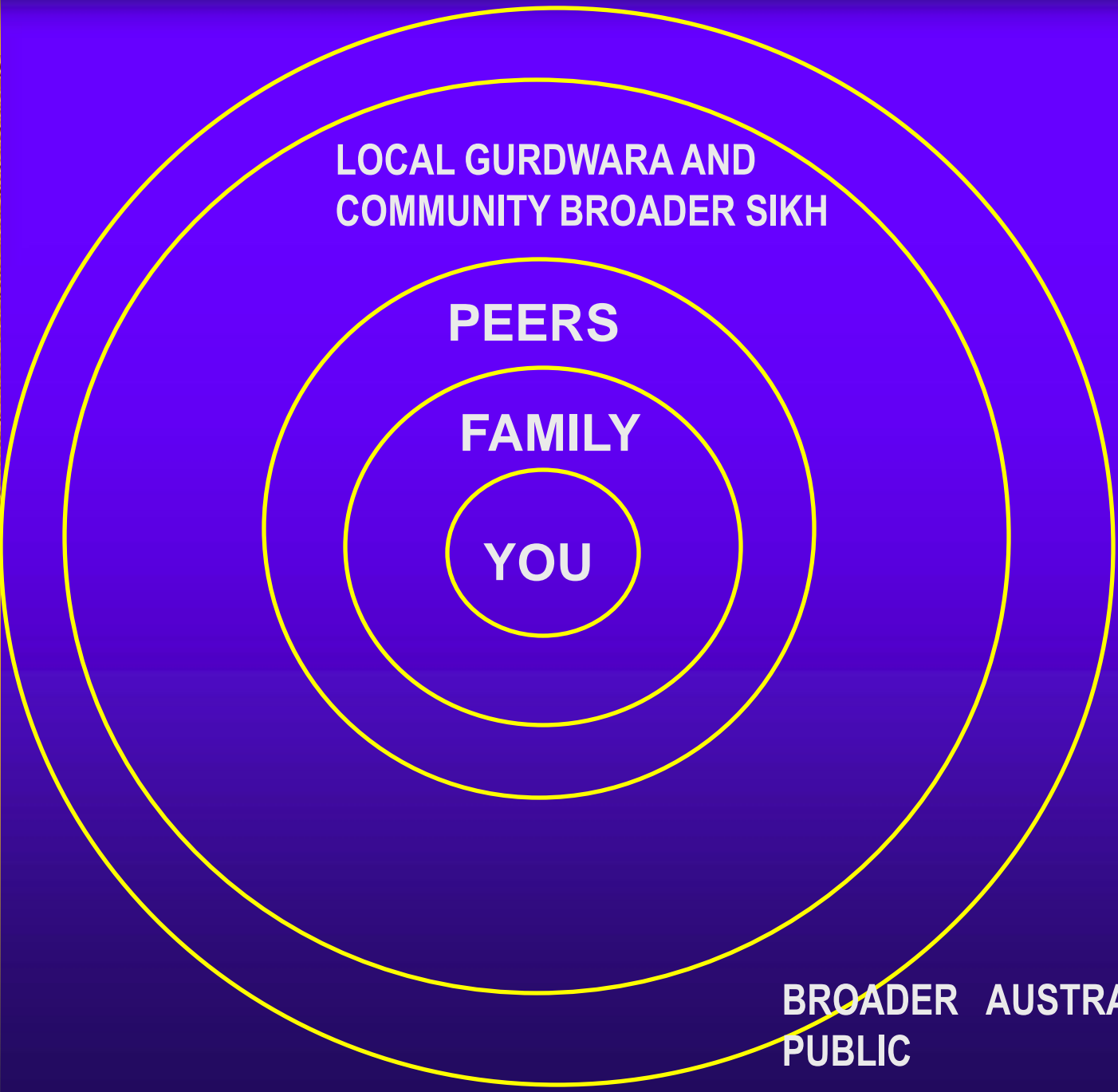


**FAMILY**

**YOU**







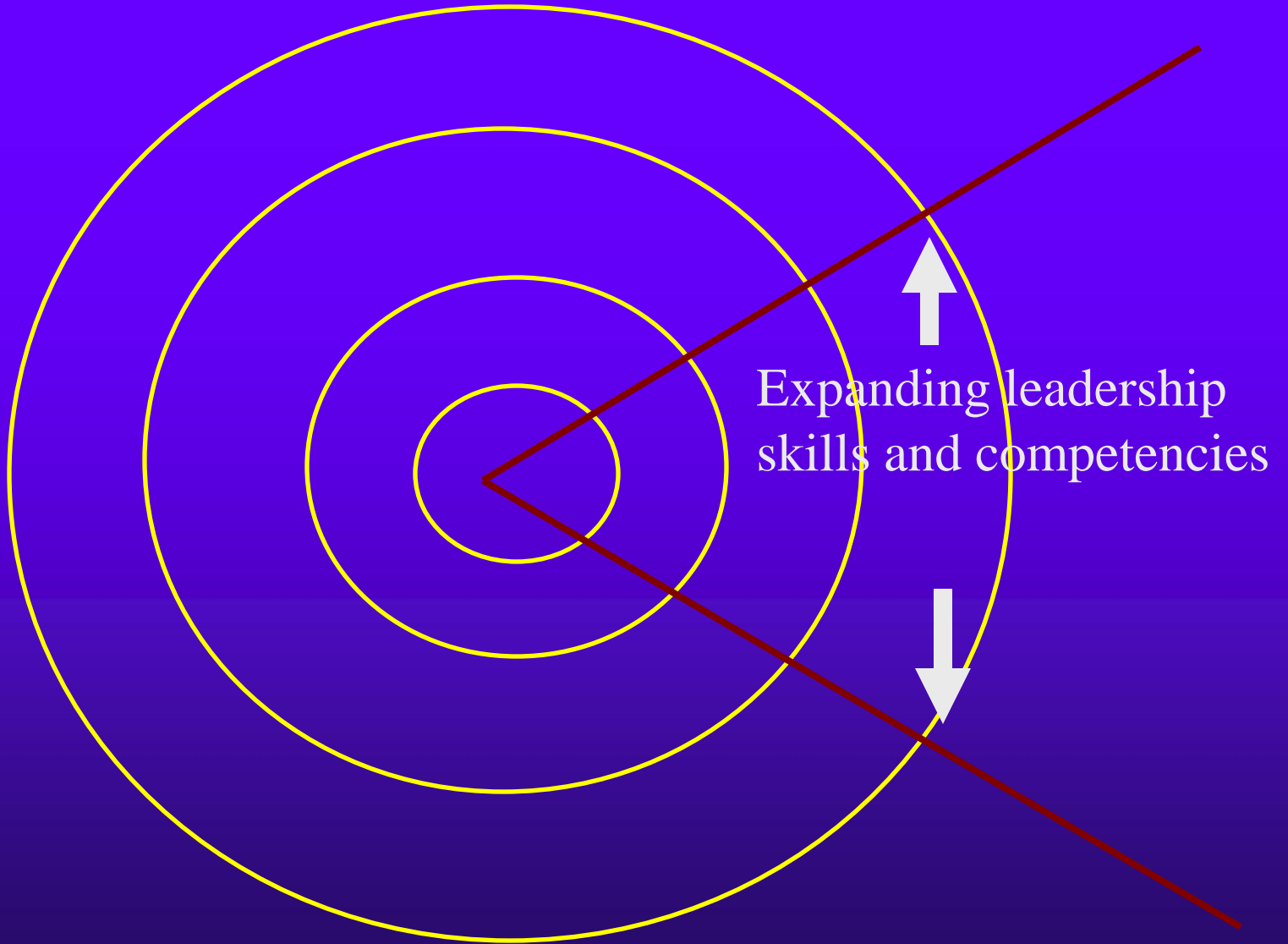
**LOCAL GURDWARA AND  
COMMUNITY BROADER SIKH**

**PEERS**

**FAMILY**

**YOU**

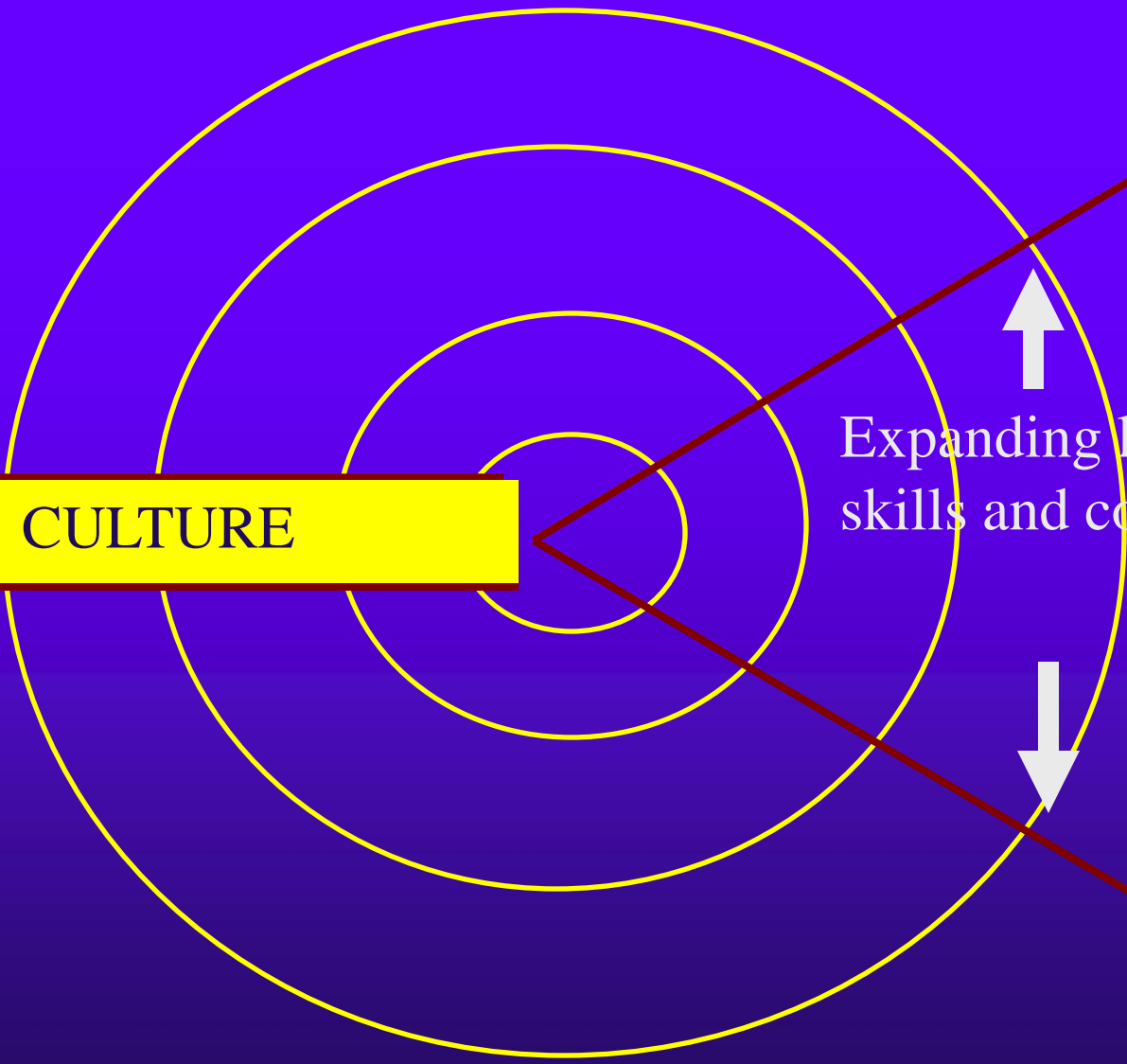
**BROADER AUSTRALIAN  
PUBLIC**



Expanding leadership  
skills and competencies



**CULTURE**



Expanding leadership skills and competencies





# CULTURE

- ◆ Culture is sustained through language, artefacts, rituals, stories, sayings,
- ◆ How are you going to ensure that this culture is consistent and the core of SYA
- ◆ Need for core values and beliefs as part of the strategic plan.



## CULTURE

- Believe there is one God for all people
- Everyone is equal
- Believe in the teaching of the ten Gurus
- Non-judgemental

Expanding leadership skills and competencies



# Key elements of Sikhism

- ◆ Khes (Hair), Kunga (comb), Keshara (shorts), Kara (Bracelet), Kirpan (Sword)
- ◆ Explanations
- ◆ Why have symbols
- ◆ Recognition of other religions and how does Sikhism compare other religions and to Christianity.
- ◆ How do Sikh's explain heaven



# RETAINING AND PROMOTING IDENTITY

◆ CONTINUUM



# CONTRIBUTION OF SIKH IDENTITY TO NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY



# SUGGESTIONS

- ◆ Use a strength-based approach
- ◆ Articulate your view of Sikh identity
- ◆ Develop your plan for a network
- ◆ Define your organisational culture in terms of actions and behaviours
- ◆ Internet cafes at functions and Gurdwara



# HOW?

- ◆ Start with developing database of potential members in each state/city
- ◆ Leadership programs to articulate projects in a range of categories – Promotion of the Sikh Identity, Community Engagement Project to profile Sikhs, developing/enhancing network.



# Social Entrepreneur

- ◆ Social Entrepreneur

- finding the right kinds of collaboration to accelerate change.




# SOCIAL CAPITAL

- ◆ Bonding social capital strengthens ties between similar groups in ways that benefit their members
- ◆ Bridging social capital builds ties between dissimilar groups in ways that have wider social benefits
- ◆ Linking social capital builds connections between groups with different levels of power in society in ways that build social cohesion

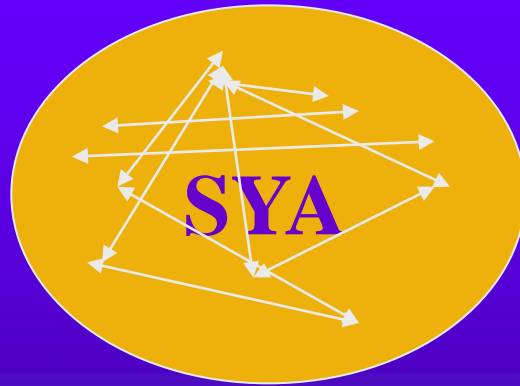
(Putnam)



# Building social cohesion through education

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- ◆ Equity in outcomes a key
    - education as ‘social reproduction’ undermines cohesion
    - education that delivers opportunities can build cohesion
  - ◆ Building both forms of social capital
    - bonding is important and easiest to build
    - bridging is essential to social cohesion
      - need to build networks and trust that bridge divisions

# BONDING SOCIAL CAPITAL



# BRIDGING SOCIAL CAPITAL



# LINKING SOCIAL CAPITAL





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