

Menaka Iyengar Cooke is a Coach/Counsellor in private practice. She has a Masters in Commerce (Employment Relations) and a Masters in Applied Psychotherapy and Counselling. She is an Educator at tertiary level (Australian College of Applied Psychology) as well as working in HR consulting, Change management and Group facilitation..

Before moving into Coaching and Education, Menaka had a successful corporate career. She worked as an H.R. Director for well-known publicly listed Australian companies (RTZ, Wattyl Paints, APS) and multi-national corporations (Hoechst, Zumtobel & Thorn Lighting). During her HR career, she won awards for 'Best SME for involving staff in strategy' and for Australia's first Family friendly policy. Her work in Change Management & HR Transformation in Education (UWS) as well as Diversity (Indigenous Employment Unit at UWS) has also won awards.

In between, HR Management and her current Coaching-Counselling practice, she has owned two jewellery-related businesses – one in Jewellery retail and the other in training people to make a variety of bespoke jewellery. She is currently starting another jewellery-making business making unique sculptures and resin jewellery.

She is the current President of WCEI, NSW (Women Chiefs of Enterprises International) and has served in various roles with Zonta International (NSW ACT). She has also served on various NGO boards including eS4W (Economic Security for Women), WAVE (Women in Adult and Vocational Education) and The Junction Works (a disability services organisation).

Her other interests are: Radio News Reader with 2RPH, working with the Women's Electoral Lobby and the Indian Crisis Support Agency. She thinks of herself as a social activist, psychology-related writer and commentator.