

OH+S

DHB Occupational Health + Safety Conference

Speaker Biography



Aasha Murthy

Aasha Murthy is the Head of Operations, Australasia for *Weight Watchers* International, based out of Sydney. She is responsible for the growth and development of this unique and extremely progressive concept in Australia, New Zealand and the Asia-Pacific.

She had headed Starbucks Australia as its Managing Director for 18 months from October 2004. In her time in the role, she had established the platform for growth in a very competitive marketplace, and put in place a team of professionals in functional and operational roles to drive brand presence across the country.

Before making the move across the Tasman, she was responsible for growing this world-class coffee chain in New Zealand. Aasha managed the company's performance throughout this time to deliver stellar growth and profitability. Under her stewardship the brand has also been recognised nationally for its commitment to local communities through its innovative social programs.

Prior to her time with Starbucks, Aasha has been the Director-Meal Solutions for Woolworths (NZ) Ltd where she was responsible for the establishment of the retail chain's unique home meal replacement offer, which is still arguably the best in Australasia. She has also positioned brands and established retail offers for consumer electronics icons like Yamaha, Canon and Sanyo in the Middle East.

Aasha is the Executive in Residence at the Business School, University of Auckland. She works with faculty in the design and delivery of programs making them more relevant and useful for industry. She brings with her the expertise and experience of leading global brands in many markets across the world.

Aasha has been a trustee on the boards of Youthline NZ (www.youthline.org) and the Pacific Rim Community Development Trust, Auckland. She has lived and/or worked in many countries, played competitive tennis and studied commerce and accountancy. Public speaking, music, sport and travel are passionate interests.