



CAROL COOKE

Country: Australia

Date of Birth: 6/8/61

Sport: Para Cycling

Discipline: Cycling/Road Race, Time Trial



Sports Career

Paralympic Games : Gold medals in 2016 (3)

World Championships : Gold medals (9) and Silver medals (5) between 2011 and 2019

Why do you wish to become a member of the IPC Athletes' Council?

For decades, I have fought for people to see capability before disability. I would value the responsibility to continue this work as part of the IPC Athletes' Council. If elected, I will passionately advocate for broader change globally, extending my experiences which have focussed primarily on issues relating to the Oceania region. As a three-time Paralympian at the Tokyo Games, I'm certain that my expertise and drive will be a valuable asset to you.

I am ready to help the IPC Athletes Council continue to the incredible rise of the Paralympic Games and strengthen the Paralympic Movement's unique global position as the world's best showcase for social inclusion. Thank you for your support.

Why do you wish to run for the IPC Athletes' Council?

The Athletes' Council has a huge responsibility to provide a voice for Para athletes. With my vast experiences, I'm qualified and ready to present the views of athletes from all sports and regions.

What special skills, background and expertise will you bring to the IPC Athletes' Council?

NPC Australia Athletes Council (since 2017), Police Officer for 14 years. Strong communicator and negotiator, HR manager for 7 Years. 30 years' service on Committees and Boards. Former Rowing Classifier.

How has sport impacted your life?

Diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis aged 36. Discovered Para sport and its life-changing potential. It's made me who I am, given me a voice and a desire to drive positive change in the world.

What is your vision for the IPC Athletes' Council?

To take the progress that has been made by the Athletes' Council to a higher level. To make sure that Para athletes know that they can raise issues and concern and be heard by the Council.

Why is the athletes' voice important to you?

Para athletes are truly at the heart of the Movement. We want to be heard at all times, not just at the Paralympic Games, to make our society more inclusive. Para sport improves lives.

What is the biggest challenge you have experienced as an athlete? How did you overcome it?

As an older athlete competing at the elite level, I'm constantly told my age is a barrier. My success shows that ability is what counts, not age, gender or other factors.