

CV:

Mojo Mathers served as New Zealand's first deaf member of parliament for two terms from 2011- 2017, having previously gained a public profile in her community as an environmental activist.

Mojo's election provoked a nationwide debate about the right to representation for disabled people and how this should be funded. Initially she was expected to pay for the transcribers she needed to participate out of her office budget. Following public outcry, she won the right to have these expenses covered by parliament and the law was changed to ensure that future MPs with a disability would have their access costs covered.

During her time as an MP a number of changes were brought in to make parliament and politics more accessible, including the live captioning of parliament TV.

Post parliament Mojo has continued to advocate for the rights of disabled people to political representation. A bill she drafted – the Election Access Fund bill – is currently making its way through NZ parliament.

In 2018 a short documentary "Hear Me Out" was released covering her fight for equal representation for disabled people.

In 2019 she was made a member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to disabled people.

Before emigrating to NZ in 1981, Mojo attended the Mary Hare School for Deaf in the UK for two years. Mojo has an Honours degree in Mathematics and a Masters degree with distinction in Conservation Forestry.