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## EXPERT CHANNELS CHANGE IN SCHOOLS

A leading education expert says teachers could be at risk of developing change fatigue due to the significant number of policy changes in recent months.

Dr Irena Yashin-Shaw will be keynote speaker at a breakfast for school leaders and principals, hosted by the Independent Schools Queensland Centre for Educational Leadership and Innovation on Friday 23 July, and plans to share creative thinking strategies to help limit the stress of 21st century education.

Dr Yashin-Shaw said the introduction of a new National Curriculum, NAPLAN testing, policy reforms proposed by the Queensland Government's Green Paper on education and rapid improvements in classroom technology have created an environment where teachers are constantly having to adapt.

"As a result of the Federal Government's Education Revolution, teachers have been bombarded with new initiatives," she said.

"Relentless change can put employees at risk of information overload, trapped in a reactive mode where they don't have time to think strategically or creatively.

"In addition to change at a policy level, teachers are also fighting to keep pace with the Google generation who continually trawl the internet for information forcing teachers to be more creative with lesson plans than ever before."

"Teachers, like many other professionals, are very busy people and every change requires them to make the time to learn the new process, technology or curriculum."

Dr Yashin-Shaw said the danger during busy periods of change was to focus on getting the job done without thinking about how it could be done more effectively.

"My role is to help educators to shift perspective about the way they approach the challenges of their demanding profession," she said.

"Despite the huge demands currently placed on schools and their staff, teachers are traditionally a very resilient group who have been able to cope with change better than many other professions.

"This forum is a great opportunity for school leaders and principals to take a step back from their daily routine, and learn some new practical ideas they can take back to their schools."

Independent Schools Queensland Executive Director David Robertson said while creative thinking was important it was also vital schools were given the support and resources needed to keep pace with change.

"Many education reforms currently on the table will provide long term benefits for our schools but they must be adequately supported while change takes place," Mr Robertson said.

"We need to avoid a situation where schools suffer reform fatigue and as a result good public policy initiatives are less than successful, simply because they are not implemented well."

Dr Yashin-Shaw has more than 25 years experience as an educator in a variety of industry sectors, holds a PhD in creative problem solving and is the Managing Director of Speaking Edge and Innovation Edge.

The forum will be held from 7.30am-9am on 23 July at Victoria Park Golf Complex, Herston Road, Herston.

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