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Dear Chris,

Presentation to staff – Austin Health

On behalf of Austin Health, I wish to extend our sincere gratitude to you and your colleague Merissa Merissa van Setten for your insightful and informative session on *"Care and management of patients using methamphetamine and other substances"* on 15 February 2018. Nurses, doctors and allied health were present with members of Austin Health Executive Team, Senior Directors and Managers in a forum that was extremely valuable.

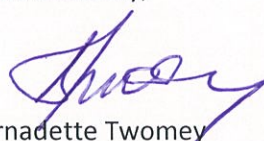
We welcomed the opportunity to share your knowledge, experience and expertise in this challenging area of health care. It was most helpful for staff to gain a better understanding of the physiological impact of substance use which gave context to some of the clinical presentations of patients and clients. Hearing the lived experience of community members who have been affected by substance use and clinicians who are directly involved in their care was inspirational. The sensitivity and compassion you and Merissa shared in your presentation was clearly evident and a testimony to the commitment you have in your roles at NEXUS.

Several staff will recall your key phrase – *"See the patient –not the drug"* and that will resonate with many for some time and as they return to the care environment. Other comments and feedback included:

- *"Loved the practice tips and always good to have experts providing contemporary information. Very patient centred and empathetic – how refreshing – thank you"*
- *"Very informative - I didn't realise I had so many pre-conceived opinions and biases regarding Meth users. If I have contact with these people in future my approach will be a lot different because of this session"*
- *"Lots of information I was unaware of. Very interesting and helpful; "*

Thank you for your valued contribution to professional development of Austin Health staff on this relevant and contemporary aspect of health care.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Twomey
Chief Nursing Office
Austin Health