

**Biography: Charbel Yamouni**

Charbel is the founder and executive Director of Bright Sparq Limited. The Bright Sparq concept and need to help the community was born whilst completing his undergraduate degree at Monash University and working in Melbourne's CBD, noticing an alarming amount of rough sleepers nestled amongst building door-ways and park benches. Working near cafés there was an excessive amount of daily food wastage occurring.

This was the catalyst for Charbel to establish Bright Sparq in 2014. Charbel gathered a group of friends to commence the strategic planning on how best to help Melbourne's homeless and underprivileged. Working pro-bono, Charbel and his team researched these groups and established that over 750 thousand Victorians, and almost 3 million Australians live below the poverty line.

Bright Sparq was established as a direct response to this alarming data. The team created staged objectives and project requirements in order to commence networking and establishing affiliated partners and food suppliers to help support their mission and achieve their vision. Upon completion of the project planning and design phases, Bright Sparq successfully commenced the pilot program. Today, Bright Sparq is an operational not for profit organisation that collects, packages and delivers in excess of 200 bread loaves and 800 bread rolls each week to its 13 partnered not-for-profit charities. It also directly delivers over 70 pre-packaged food items each week to Melbourne CBD's rough sleepers.

**When not working in IT or on Bright Sparq, Charbel is an enthusiastic reader, loves cars and enjoys attending AFL matches.**